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100- HQ-293468

SERIALS 1--

SECTION 1

100-HQ-293468-1W

FEDERAL BUREAU

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INVESTIGATION

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FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION
1734 NEW YORK AVENUE NW.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

HOWARD O. HUNTER
COMMISSIONER OF WORK PROJECTS

June 24, 1941

Reference:
5-NY-3717

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

There is enclosed herewith a copy of the report of an investigation made by this Division of a complaint which alleged that Gwendolyn C. Bennett made a false statement in submitting an affidavit, WPA Form 608, to this Administration stating that she was not a Communist.

The report of this investigation is referred to your Bureau for your information and files.

Very truly yours,

Rog J. Bowlds
Roger J. Bowlds, Director
Division of Investigation

Enclosure

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FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

CASE No. **XS-NY-3717**

Place: New York, New York	Dates of inv.: Mar. 28-June 4, 1941	Date of report: JUN 19 1941	Agent: JOSEPH A. PORCELLI MICHAEL J. SHERRY LOWELL H. EWING
Subjects: GWENDOLYN C. BENNETT, colored, Id. No. 234568, WPA Unit Supervisor, (suspended) 2 West 120th Street New York City, New York			Approved: old <i>C. J. [Signature]</i> Status of investigation: COMPLETE

SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION

Complaint alleging that Gwendolyn C. Bennett, former WPA Unit Supervisor and Director of the New York City Art Project, made a false statement in submitting an affidavit, WPA Form 608, to this Administration, stating that she was not a Communist.

SYNOPSIS OF REPORT

A person who requested his identity be held in confidence, and who was formerly a member of the Communist Party and closely affiliated with the Party until June, 1939, declares that GWENDOLYN BENNETT has always been connected with the intellectual group of the Communist Party; that she was close to James W. Ford, colored, Communist vice-presidential candidate; that in 1937 or 1938 she was on a committee with well-known Communists under Communist sponsorship to justify and defend Trotsky shootings in Russia; that Bennett was a member of the Communist Party Publicity Committee for the New York District in 1936, 1937 and part of 1938; that she was a very close friend of well-known Communists. He also states that her present husband, Richard Crosscup, was a Communist in 1938 and may still be. MARTIN ARUNIEL, WPA Writer, (Subject in Case 6-NY-3520), states that Bennett was known to him as "Ruth Gale", and that she was, according to the language of the "leftists" one who had been in the "movement" for some time. He recalls that in 1934 or 1935, subject was hanging around a Communist paper in Harlem and she was also identified with a Communist club during this period.

ARNOLD SCOTT, private citizen, states that subject spoke at a Communist meeting in Pittsburgh, in 1939, at which time she urged all workers to unite and support the Communist Party. He further declares that he read in the Daily Worker, Western Pennsylvania edition, that Gwendolyn Bennett also spoke at a Communist meeting in Pittsburgh around the beginning of November, 1940. (Scott's statement could not be corroborated, neither was his statement refuted.)

Poems written by subject have appeared in New Masses and the Daily Worker. Subject sponsored a dinner in April, 1939, for James W. Ford,

100-293468-X

SYNOPSIS: (Continued)

16-NY-3717

Communist candidate for vice-president, and at this dinner she was at the speakers' table with Earl Browder and Robert Minor, former and present executive secretaries of the Communist Party.

According to HELL O. HECKER, WILLIAM CHASE, DAN BURLEY and EARL BROWN, all colored reporters, correspondents and editors for newspaper publications and magazines, Subject BENNETT has been identified with the Communist group and Communist movement and activities in Harlem for the last few years; that she was associated with Paul Robeson, Richard Wright, Edna Thomas, Max Yergan and Elaine Locke, who were interested in Communist activities and were reputed to be Communists, in an organization known as the Negro Playwrights Co. Inc., and that at the launching of this organization in September, 1940, Subject Gwendolyn Bennett acted as chairman for the evening and she introduced to the audience Richard Wright, who at the time admitted that he was a Communist, and Paul Robeson; that it was quite obvious at the launching of this organization that it was Communist backed and influenced. They state that this organization sponsored and produced a play, which opened in Harlem on October 22, 1940, entitled "The Big White Fog"; that this play was obviously Communistic and that it tended to create and incite dissatisfaction, and in its last scene the play showed the Communist Party offering salvation to the Negro people and also offering the only solution to the Negro race problem.

AUGUSTA SAVAGE, subject's immediate supervisor between 1936 and April, 1939, states that she has often seen subject reading the Daily Worker and knew that subject lobbied for Communist activities at the National Negro Congress in Philadelphia, during 1937, and that subject associated with persons who were reputed to be Communists. SELMA BURKE, who worked under the supervision of subject at the Harlem Community Art Center, states that during the period she was connected with the Art Center in 1938 and the early part of 1939, meetings were held at the Center at which Communist activities were discussed and Bennett went in and out of these meetings. She also declared that Communist workers at the Art Center made every effort to induce her to join the Communist Party and when she reported this matter to her superior, Gwendolyn Bennett, Bennett not only did nothing about it, but told Burke that she thought she could be whipped into line and she believed Burke needed discipline and organization.

Approximately thirty present and former WPA employees who worked with or under the supervision of subject, advised that they possessed no evidence or information regarding the activities of GWENDOLYN BENNETT in the Communist Party, or any Communistic

SYNOPSIS: (Continued)

X6-BY-5717

sympathies on the part of subject.

Inquiries in the neighborhoods where subject has resided failed to produce any evidence of Communist activities on the part of subject. Most of the people interviewed stated that they did not know Subject Bennett and never heard of her.

Subject GWENDOLYN BENNETT at first refused to be interviewed except upon her own conditions, but later consented to be interviewed in the presence of her attorney. When interviewed she denied that she was ever a Communist or a member of the Communist Party, or that she ever participated in any Communist activities.

This matter occurred in the Southern Judicial District of New York.

R E P O R T

X5-NY-3717

This investigation is predicated upon a letter dated April 3, 1941, addressed to the New York Field Office by Roger J. Bounds, Director, Division of Investigation, WPA, enclosing copies of correspondence from Oliver A. Gottschalk, former WPA Acting Administrator for New York City, which alleges that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, Id. #234566, WPA Unit Supervisor, (suspended), residing at 2 West 120th Street, New York City, New York, is a Communist and that she falsified her Education and Experience Record (WPA NYC Form 89).

Examination by Special Field Agent Robert H. Deiss of Subject Bennett's employment record, on file in the Employment Division of the New York City Work Projects Administration offices at 70 Columbus Avenue, New York City, reflects that Subject Gwendolyn Bennett was originally assigned on August 1, 1935, as a Journalist at \$94.00 per month on the Art Project, and continued in the employ of the WPA, under various classifications, until she was suspended on April 9, 1941, from the Art Project, O.P. 65-1-97-2063, W.P. 1.

Attached hereto and marked EXHIBIT 1 is a photostated copy of WPA Form 608, executed by Subject GWENDOLYN BENNETT under date of June 27, 1940, and sworn to before William A. Kissan, Id. #285044, WPA Administrative Clerk.

Contained in the file referred to by Director Bounds to the New York Field office is a statement made by WILLIAM E. BRENNAN and JOHN SHERWIN, investigators in the office of John A. Brann, former WPA Administrative Assistant, 70 Columbus Avenue, New York City, in which they allege that subject was interviewed by them on January 10, 1941, and stated to them that she had contributed articles to the Negro magazines known as "Opinion" and "Crisis". (They declared that "Crisis" is a Communist publication for use among Negroes and has been so known to the United States Department of Justice, Post Office Department, and other agencies, for many years.) They further charged that subject admitted while on WPA some of her written work appeared in the "Daily Worker" and "New Masses" under her own name, but that she claims she had written to these publications asking them how they obtained them

and she was unable to offer any evidence to prove that she had not, herself, submitted them. They further charged that subject admitted she was a delegate to the National Negro Congress in Philadelphia, in 1937, from the American Artists Guild. They said that one of the speakers at the convention was a WILLIAM PATTERSON, who had just returned from Russia, who immediately proceeded to the Congress to deliver an address. They said that subject at first denied having met Patterson and later stated that she had met him at a meeting held in the home of Miss Savage, her former superior. They asserted that the witness proved to be evasive during examination, hedging and parrying questions and left them with the definite opinion that she was not telling the whole truth and was trying to shield herself and her superiors and that she was withholding facts. They further added that she made many inconsistent statements about her experience, training and education and they recommended that subject be dismissed for lack of necessary artistic qualifications and training and falsification of her 89 Form.

Contained in the file is a statement dated January 10, 1941, made by Subject GWENDOLYN BENNETT to William E. Broman and John Sherwin, supra, in which she admits that she had contributed articles to the Negro magazines Opinion, Crisis and some others. She also stated that she contributed poems that were to be put out by a group of Negro writers, which were to be distributed at a small church club, and later found out that some of her poems appeared in the Daily Worker and New Masses. She states that she wrote and asked where these publications had gotten her poems and she received a reply that the poems had been submitted to them. However, she said she was unable to offer any evidence in the form of correspondence with regard to this matter. She further admitted she did attend the last National Negro Congress held in Philadelphia. She admitted that William Patterson was a known Communist and that he was once present at a meeting she attended at the home of Miss Savage but she denies ever having met him.

In her statement to Broman and Sherwin there appear certain minor inconsistencies on the part of subject in relation to length of time employed and her experience prior to her WPA employment as shown on her Education and Experience Record (WPA NYC Form 89).

WILLIAM A. RISSAN, Id. #295044, WPA Assistant Project Finance Officer, at 70 Columbus Avenue, New York City, residing at 9310-213 th Street, Queens, New York, advised Agent Deiss, in a telephone interview on March 28, 1941, that he does not know Subject Bennett; that hundreds of oaths were taken by him and that he could not recall

each individual case, but that all the persons who took the oath identified themselves to him. He related that the oath was read to the person subscribing to it and each of the workers stated they understood the contents of it before being sworn. He recalled that only one person refused to sign the WPA Form 608 and this fact was so noted on his Form 608.

AUGUSTA SAVAGE, presently unemployed, former WPA Director of the Harlem Community Art Center, Id. #231568, residing at 18 West 122nd Street, New York City, on April 17, 1941, advised that she has known Subject Bennett since about 1926; that Subject Bennett worked under her supervision in New York City Art Projects from sometime in 1936 to April, 1939, as a WPA assistant supervisor, and that subject lived at the same premises with her at 521 West 130th Street, New York City, from sometime in July, 1936 to about November, 1937.

MISS SAVAGE further stated to Special Field Agent Michael J. Sherry that she saw GWENDOLYN BENNETT regularly reading the Daily Worker. She stated that Subject Bennett was the president of the Harlem Artists Guild during 1936 and that in 1937, she, Savage, was selected by the Harlem Artists Guild, of which she was a member, as a delegate from that guild to the National Negro Congress held at Philadelphia, during that year, the exact date she could not recall, and that Subject Bennett was selected as an alternate delegate; that before she and Subject Bennett went to Philadelphia to attend this congress, ALEX STAVENITZ, who was in charge of the New York City Art Project, Teachers' Division, and Subject Bennett, asked her to allow Subject Bennett to act as the delegate from this guild at the National Negro Congress. Miss Savage further related that in 1937, she went from New York City to Philadelphia to this National Negro Congress convention with subject in subject's car and while they were at the convention she, Savage, took no part in the proceedings, but that Subject Bennett was very active and lobbied for the Young Communist League to get its members elected as officers of the National Negro Congress, and that two-thirds of the officers represented were Communists or Communist sympathizers of the Young Communist League. She stated that Subject Bennett at this convention lobbied for the election of Gladys Stoner, a reputed Communist, for the position of National Secretary of the National Negro Congress; that GLADYS STONER was employed in the New York City Relief Bureau. She further stated that Subject Bennett also lobbied at this convention for a Mr. Moran, a reputed Communist, and an organizer of the Young Communist League, for some office of the Congress, the name of which she cannot recall, and that Mr. Moran was in charge of the New York City Relief Bureau for Harlem, located on 5th Avenue.

MISS SAVAGE further advised that in 1937 she returned from this National Negro Congress at Philadelphia to New York City in the car owned by Subject Bennett, and that after their return she was at the office of ALEX STAVENITZ, former WPA Junior Art Officer, at 110 King Street, New York City, office of the New York City Art project, and that subject and Stavenitz went into another room at this address and she overheard subject say to Stavenitz that she wished to make an oral report of the proceedings of the National Negro Congress in Philadelphia to him and that she could hardly wait to give him this information. Miss Savage stated that she overheard at this time Subject GWENDOLYN BENNETT state to Stavenitz that the Young Communist League had come out in a body at the convention over 150 strong and that more of her people had attended and that they simply ran away with the convention; that she overheard subject tell Stavenitz that the highlight of the convention was the arrival at the convention of William L. Patterson from Moscow, Russia, and that Patterson brought a message from Russia to the convention which thrilled her (Bennett) and other delegates.

MISS SAVAGE further stated that she overheard subject tell Stavenitz that any objectors to the presence of Communists at the convention were squashed by Patterson and the other Communists; that she did not see subject talk to or associate with Patterson at this convention; that she cannot recall Patterson ever having visited her (Savage) in her home in New York City, or of Subject Bennett having seen Patterson there or elsewhere, with the exception of the above mentioned convention.

MISS SAVAGE stated that she does not remember the names of other persons who returned to New York City from the convention in subject's car.

MISS SAVAGE advised that the Harlem Artists Guild, which is now defunct, was not a Communist organization, but there may have been a few of the members who were Communist sympathizers; that subject did not speak at the convention at Philadelphia, and she remembers nothing further about her activities there; that she does not know what particular message Patterson brought back from Russia and as far as she knows it was merely a general statement in relation to conditions in Russia.

MISS SAVAGE further stated that both ALEX STAVENITZ and GWENDOLYN BENNETT asked her and other workers in 1937 to picket in front of 70 Columbus Avenue as a protest against dismissal of WPA

workers and that she and subject did some picketing in front of this address.

MISS SAVAGE further related that meetings of the WPA supervisors of the New York City Art Project were held during 1937-1938 and up to about April, 1939, to her knowledge, at the homes of various supervisors, among whom were VIRGINIA MANNING, FREDA TAYLOR, SAMUEL FRIEDMAN and CLEVE BISSELL, whose street addresses she cannot remember, and that both she and subject attended these meetings, which were held once each week. She stated that at these meetings subject was very frequently with and associated with BURGONES MILLER and LINCOLN ROTHSCCHILD, (subjects in 5-NY-3506 and 6-NY-3707, respectively), and that Virginia Manning, Freda Taylor, Samuel Friedman, Cleve Bissell and Alex Stavenits also attended these meetings, which group were reputed to be Communist or Communist sympathizers. She advised that at these meetings Manning, Taylor, Friedman, Miller and Rothschild possessed copies of and read the Daily Worker and became exultant about several items in this publication that pleased them, and while they did not refer to Communism openly they used such terms as "comes the revolution", and the "coming revolution of the workers", "the Party", "class struggle", "the masses", "the workers", "collectivism", and proletariat". She stated that while subject and Stavenits did not use these terms, or indulge in this conversation, they did associate with this group of persons and were present when these statements were made, and that subject and these other persons named above, apparently constituted a group of Communist sympathizers at these supervisors' meetings, which disgusted the other supervisors and herself, who were opposed to Communism and caused them to stay away from several of the meetings.

MISS SAVAGE further asserted that while she has no evidence or proof of actual membership of subject in the Communist Party, she believes, from the facts set forth above, that subject was a Communist sympathizer.

(Agent's Note: WPA records reflect the following relative to the persons named in Augusta Savage's statement:

ALEXANDER STAVENITZ, Id. #234747, former WPA junior art officer, separated July 1, 1940, - resigned due to illness.

VIRGINIA MANNING, Id. #234602, former WPA junior superintendent on Art Project. Separated October 23, 1939, - resigned.

FREDA TAYLOR, Id. #263469, WPA artist connected with 110 King Street, New York City, WPA art project.

SAMUEL FREIDMAN, Id. #426981, former managing project supervisor, head of Information Section, separated September 8, 1939, - "non-essential - non-relief".

CLEVELAND BISSELL, Id. #519417, former WPA artist, separated August 8, 1939, for 18 months continuous employment.

BURGOYNE DILLER, Id. #148448, Assistant project supervisor, suspended as of close of business April 9, 1941, (subject in 85-NY-3708).

LINCOLN ROTHECHILD, Id. #510214, assistant project supervisor, suspended as of close of business April 9, 1941, (subject in 85-NY-3707).

SELMA BURKE, former WPA Art Teacher, residing at 148 East 28th Street, New York City, on interview May 17, 1941, stated that she has known Subject OWEN DOLYH BENNETT since 1936 in connection with her employment with the WPA at the Harlem Community Art Center, and also socially. She declared that during the period that she was connected with the Art Center in 1938 and the early part of 1939, while she taught art at the Center in the evenings, Communist meetings were held in a room adjoining her classroom; that she often was able to overhear conversations and discussions about Communist activities, and, according to Burke, Subject Bennett went in and out of these meetings. She declared that she could not recall the topics that were discussed.

BURKE related that on one occasion in the fall or winter of 1938, she was told by RIVA HELFOND, a co-worker who had often tried to induce her to join the Communist Party, that at a Communist meeting held in Harlem, the Communist group from the Center had decided that she, Burke, was a good person to have in the Party, but that she needed discipline and organization, and they were sure they could whip her in line. She said that shortly after speaking to Helfond, she, Burke, spoke to Bennett about what had been told her by Helfond and Bennett said, "Yes, you do need discipline and organization and I think you can be whipped into line."

BURKE further explained that in the spring of 1939, when the Communist project workers saw that they "could not whip her into line", Helfond, who was friendly with her, advised her that at a meeting at the Communist headquarters, all the Communist project workers at the Center were instructed to strain their relationship with Burke. She said that ERNEST RHICLOW, another co-worker at the Center, at about this same time, asked her, "Why don't you act right and stop fighting the Reds".

Burke explained that she could not tolerate this kind of activity on the project, and she told her director, Subject Bennett, the whole story and Bennett said nothing and did nothing about this.

BURKE relates that from that time on, the Communists on the project tried to make things very difficult for her. She said they urged her students to take other courses in order to disrupt her sculpture class, and to a certain extent they succeeded in getting some of the students to leave her class. She further stated that the Communists showed in their attitude that they did not want ^{her} around the project. She said the Communists then went so far as to steal her tools and smock and also destroy heads of sculpture. She said this also caused her to go to Bennett and ask her to definitely do something about it and in answer to her request, Bennett said: "Don't you think you ought to do something about it?", and made other statements, signifying by these statements and the tone of her voice that she wanted Burke to get out of the project.

BURKE further related that some time during May, 1939, a cocktail party was given in her honor by a CHARLES STUDIN, at Studin's home, 12 East 10th Street, New York City, for her accomplishments in sculpture. She explained that after the invitations had been sent out to her friends, ORNDOLYN BENNETT approached her and told her that she had heard about her party and asked her if she would be kind enough to include her as one of the guests as she would very much like to go to the party. Burke said that she told Bennett that the invitations had already been sent out and she could not possibly invite anyone else. In answer to this Bennett stated she would like to bring Paul Robeson (prominent Negro singer) to the party; Burke refused, explaining that she was sorry. Burke went on to relate that without her knowledge, Bennett telephoned Studin the same afternoon of the party and lead Studin to believe that Burke had consented to her going to the party. She said that when she arrived at Studin's home about 4:30 in the afternoon, she was flabbergasted to see Bennett there, together with a Mr. Pearl, whom she described as a white, filthy-looking man. She related that when she arrived, she was taken aside by Studin who told her that Bennett and Pearl arrived at about 4:00 p.m., after telephoning him, and when she arrived she asked him "could she appeal to the people at the party about creating a group that would sponsor Better Russian-Negro films, and that Robeson was going to be one of the heads of this group". Studin informed her that he told Bennett that this could not be done as he did not want to turn Selma Burke's party into a meeting. She asserted that Bennett also attempted to get her permission to address her guests at the party for the creation of this group to produce Russian-Negro films. Burke explained that she was very angry with Bennett and flatly refused to have her speak to her guests. She said that this did not phase Bennett, as Bennett then asked her if she would hold another party and invite her guests so that this

Russian-Negro film group could be formed.

BURKE said that she later learned that the same group that took over the Negro Playwrights Co. Inc. was also interested in this Better Russian-Negro film movement. She declared that the persons principally interested in this movement with Bennett were Richard Wright, an admitted Communist, and Paul Robeson, a Communist, who had always been interested in, and tied up with Communist activities in the community of Harlem. She declared that to her knowledge Bennett always associated with the Communist group at the Harlem Community Art Center and that Bennett completely cooperated with this group and permitted these Communists to run the project. She said that some of these project workers whom she knew to be Communists were Riva Helfond, Anna Gold, Marion Friedman, Fred Norden, David Epstein, Ernest Kriehlow, Burt Jackson, Frieda Taylor, Jimmie Yergans, and others, whose names she could not recall. She explained that these named persons constantly discussed Communism on the project and that many of them tried to get her to become a member of the Communist Party.

CHARLES STUBIN, lawyer, 56 West 44th Street, New York City, upon interview June 3, 1941, stated that he recalled having a party for SELMA BURKE at his home a couple of years ago, which GRENDOLYN BENNETT attended. He said he could not recall whether Bennett was invited to the party and he did not remember Bennett proposing that she speak to the guests for the purpose of forming a group to produce Russian-Negro films. He stated, however, that about a couple of weeks after Burke's party, Bennett and a Mr. Pearl did make a proposal that a party be given to Paul Robeson, that he could not recall that it was to be given for any cause. He said that this party never did take place. He explained that he had a high regard for Selma Burke as he has known her over a long period of time and he stated that she is a fine person. He asserted that he had no reason to doubt her word as he believes her to be a very truthful and honest person but it was his belief that she might have discussed the matter with Subject Bennett and that she was somewhat confused in thinking that the discussion of the formation of any Russian-Negro film group had come to his attention. He said he knew nothing about Subject Bennett's activities or sympathies because he knew her, Bennett, only slightly. He declared that he would never allow any cause to be fostered or prompted in his home at any time.

SARAH WEST, Id. #411494, former WPA Artist, residing at 878 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York City, upon interview May 9, 1941,

stated that she was formerly connected with the Harlem Community Art Center up to April 24, 1941, on which date she resigned for private employment. She declared that she could not state whether or not the subject was a Communist; however, she believed her to be sympathetic to Communism because during the period she was connected with the Harlem Art Center, the Center was overrun with Communists and Communist activities, always with the knowledge of Subject Bennett, who never made any effort to stop these activities. She explained that subject was friendly with and associated with a number of persons at the project who frequently discussed Communism and who gave every indication of being sympathetic to Communism. These persons were RIVA HELFOND, FRIEDA TAYLOR, MARION FRIEDMAN, DAVID EPSTEIN, FANNY WEST, SARAH GILAR, JAMES YERGAN, ALEX STAVENITZ and MARRY MALINOW (subject in 5-NY-3578). She further related that Subject Bennett showed partiality to reputed Communists on the project. She said she knew that Subject Bennett was chairman and sponsor at the launching of the "Negro Playwrights Co. Inc." where Paul Robeson and Richard Wright were honored guests. She said that this Negro Playwrights Co. Inc. produced the play "Big White Fog" at the Lincoln Theatre in Harlem, during the latter part of 1940, and that Gwendolyn Bennett's picture appeared in the program as one of the associate members of the group that sponsored this play. She said that the play was Communist propaganda. (Agent's Note: Subject Bennett's connection with Negro Playwrights Co. Inc. and her sponsoring the play "Big White Fog" will be covered later in this report.)

SARAH WEST further declared that Bennett is reputed to be a Communist in the community of Harlem because of her activities. She recalled that about 2½ years ago, Richard Wright, an admitted Communist, spoke at the Harlem Community Art Center during Negro History Week, at the request of Subject GWENDOLYN BENNETT, who was chairman at the time.

SARAH WEST asserted that she heard reports that Subject Bennett went to Pittsburgh to campaign with James Ford, colored, vice-presidential candidate for the Communist Party, during the election campaign of 1940.

(Agent's Note: WPA records reflect the following relative to the persons mentioned in the statements of SELMA BURKE and SARAH WEST.)

RIVA HELFOND, Id. #254691, WPA artist connected with the New York City Art Project, 110 King Street, New York City, New York.

ERNEST KRICHLOW, Id. #320174, WPA artist connected with the New York City Art Project, 110 King Street, New York City,

ANNA GOLD, Id. #376607, former WPA artist, separated April 3, 1941, for 18 months law.

MARION FRIEDMAN, Id. #234612, former WPA artist, separated June 20, 1939, for outside employment.

FRED NORDEN, Id. #262592, former WPA artist, separated September 6, 1940, for outside employment.

DAVID EPSTEIN, Id. #420350, former WPA artist, separated April 1, 1941, for outside employment.

BURT JACKSON, Id. #394703, former WPA artist, separated August 14, 1940, for private employment.

FRIEDA TAYLOR, Id. #263469, WPA artist connected with New York City Art Project, 110 King Street, New York City.

PERKINSON WEST, Id. #282929, former WPA artist, separated January 16, 1939, for private employment.

SARAH SKLAR, Id. #373666, former WPA artist, separated August 6, 1939, for 18 months law.

HARRY MALINOW, Id. #234704, WPA unit supervisor, suspended, subject in Case B-NY-3573.

ALEXANDER STAVENITZ, Id. #254747, former WPA junior art officer, separated July 1, 1940, resigned due to illness.

JAMES YERGANS, Id. #327769, WPA artist, connected with the New York City Art Project, 110 King Street, New York City.)

MRS. AUDREY McMAHON, Id. #730824, WPA project manager of the New York City Art Project, 110 King Street, residing at 10 East 9th Street, New York City, when interviewed by Agent Sherry on April 16, 1941, advised that she has known Subject GRENDOLYN BENNETT for the past three years, during which period subject worked indirectly under her supervision; that her only association with subject has been in the course of official business and slight in nature; that she contacted subject only about once every two or two and one-half months. Mrs. McMahon further advised that AUGUSTA SAVAGE, former WPA Director of the Harlem Community Art Center, told her about three years ago that she,

Savage, thought that subject was a Communist, but that apart from this statement, she, McMahon, has no evidence or information indicating in any way that subject is a Communist or Communist sympathizer, or has ever been engaged in any Communist activities; that subject came to her office two or three times in the past three years as a member of delegations from WPA workers concerning grievances of the workers, but nothing in her attitude indicated any Communist activities.

MRS. McMAHON stated to Special Field Agent Jefferson B. Cohen and Field Agent in Charge Clayton D. Hollinger, on May 26, 1941, that she thought very highly of Miss Bennett, so much so that she arranged to have Miss Bennett secure a scholarship in the History of Arts Department at New York University, of which her husband is the head. She further stated that Miss Bennett was an intellectual type who was always seeking greater knowledge and she could not conceive of her having any Communist leanings.

HARRY L. THOMPSON, Id. #179733, WPA administrative assistant, 110 King Street, residing at 52 Whitson Street, Forest Hills, Queens, Long Island, New York, whom interviewed by Agent Sherry on April 16, 1941, advised that subject worked indirectly under his supervision since September, 1939, and that he has known her since that date; that he contacted subject only about once every two months, and that he has no evidence or information indicating that she is a member of the Communist Party or that she has ever been engaged in any Communist activities or that she is a Communist sympathizer.

MRS. FRANCES M. POLLAK, Id. #6666, former WPA technical director, residing at Hockey Hollow Farm, Clinton, New Jersey, on April 20, 1941, in an interview with Agents Cohen and Martin, advised that she and MRS. AUBREY McMAHON had been associated on the Art Project since its inception as co-directors and that she (Pollak) had resigned in May, 1937. She declared that subject Grandolyn Bennett associated with HARRY MALINOW and a group who were active in the Artists Union, but that she had no evidence or information to indicate that subject was or was not a Communist. She stated that Augusta Savage should be able to furnish information concerning subject. She asserted that the Art Project had become infested with Communist tendencies and various disturbing influences and sympathies with the Soviet government run through the entire project; that every evidence of Communism on the Art Project, in her belief, could be traced to the United American Artists Union. With reference to AUGUSTA SAVAGE, Mrs. Pollak declared that she might be biased because she was a very emotional person and she might exaggerate in any statement she made with reference to Communism.

LOUISE JEFFERSON, former WPA artist, Id. #234653, residing at 130 West 130th Street, New York City, when interviewed on April 17, 1941, by Agent Sherry, stated that she was employed by the WPA as an artist from 1935 to 1939; that she has known subject since about 1933; that she worked with subject at the uptown Art Library, 821 West 136th Street, New York City, from sometime about June, 1936 to about November, 1937; that she resided with subject at this address during this period; that she worked with subject at 1 West 123rd Street, from November, 1937 to September, 1938, and under her supervision at the Harlem Community Art Center, 290 Lenox Avenue, from September, 1938 to July, 1939. She further related that she attended the National Negro Congress convention at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1937, the date she cannot remember, at which subject was an alternate delegate from the Harlem Artist Guild, but that she stayed at the convention only on its first day and returned to New York City that night and she observed no Communist activities by subject at the convention. She further stated that she has no evidence or information of any membership of Subject GWENDOLYN BENNETT in the Communist Party or of any Communist activities or sympathies on the part of subject at any time.

BURTON J. JONES, Id. #242682, WPA Art Project supervisor in charge of the teaching division, 110 King Street, residing at 74 Brookside Avenue, Mount Vernon, New York, when interviewed by Agent Sherry on April 16, 1941, advised that he has known subject for the past five years; that she has been one of his assistants in charge of the Harlem Community Art Center since July, 1940, at 290 Lenox Avenue, and 107 West 115th Street; that he has no evidence or information that Subject Bennett is or was a member of the Communist Party or that she is a Communist sympathizer or that she has ever been engaged in any Communist activities.

JONES further related that he attended a dance sometime in July, 1940, at a dance hall near Lenox Avenue, the address of which he cannot remember, that was sponsored by a citizens advisory committee for the Harlem Community Art Center, then located at 290 Lenox Avenue, for the purpose of raising funds to enable the sponsor to pay the rental for this project site; that subject at this dance merely introduced him to a Mrs. Robeson, wife of Paul Robeson, the colored singer, and that Mrs. Robeson, in her conversation with him extolled living conditions in Russia and said she was completely in sympathy with the Russian form of government and that she and her husband had been royally treated in Russia on a visit they made there; that Subject BENNETT did not participate in his conversation with Mrs. Robeson and he did not observe or see any further Communist activity at this dance and knows nothing further about any association between subject and Mrs. Robeson.

The following WPA employees who worked with or under subject's supervision in connection with the New York City Art Project, and who have known subject for the period indicated, when interviewed separately on various dates in April, 1941, by Special Field Agents Michael J. Sherry, Joseph A. Forcelli, Aaron Salzman, John A. Brann and Frank M. Bradigan, advised that they possessed no evidence or information regarding activities by Subject BENNETT in the Communist Party or of any Communist sympathies on the part of subject:

<u>NAME and ID. NO.</u>	<u>WPA TITLE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>
CHARLES KEENE #175567	Field Supervisor	60-30 78th Street, Ridgewood, Queens, NY	20 years
ALICE DE CASSEHES #61090	Senior Typist	62 East 99th Street New York City	since Feb. 1940
HELEN AUSTIN #302400	Artist	245 East 99th Street New York City	since Sept. 1939
JOSEPH HYENS #266731	Artist	30 West 47th Street New York City	4 years
RICHARD LINDSEY #234756	Artist	55 West 110th Street New York City	7 "
HOWARD BROOKS #445359	Artist	230 West 139th Street New York City	1 1/2 "
NORMAN LEWIS #238338	Artist	139 West 125th Street New York City	since 1938
WALTER V. CHALMAN #730569	Carpenter	132-14 89th Street Ozone Park, Queens, NY	since Oct. 1937
FREDERICK PERRY #370831	Sr. Recreation Leader	143 West 125th Street New York City	since fall of 1935
THEODORE MOORE #566222	Senior Clerk	442 West 163rd Street New York City	since 1933
WILLIAM HUTCHINSON #533429	Laborer	280 West 128th Street New York City	3 years
RONALD JOSEPH #320865	Artist	33 West 126th Street New York City	6 or 7 years

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<u>NAME and ID. NO.</u>	<u>WPA TITLE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>
MINNIE PATTERSON #603771	Art Teacher	961 St. Nicholas Ave. New York City	10 years
LEON HUGENSTEIN #410687	Artist	611 West 114th Street New York City	10 months
MILTON A. SMITH #134641	Teacher	149 Horikimer Street Brooklyn, New York	since Aug. 1940
LIONEL MacRAISEY #365249	Assistant Supervisor	7011 Avenue G Brooklyn, New York	3½ years
ROBERT POINS #235890	Artist	419 West 154th Street New York City	4 years
FRED PORTUGAL #229593	Unit Supervisor	505 West 112th Street New York City	while subject was supervisor
WILLIAM C. PALMER #144757	Assistant Proj. Supv.	220 West 16th Street New York City	3 months
HENRY GOLDSMITH #284663	Project Fin. Off.	2314 Valentine Avenue Bronx, New York	not stated
JACOB NEWMAN #60145	Timekeeper	469 East 92nd Street Brooklyn, New York	since Aug. 1939
CLARA SHANAFELT #234542	Research Editor	10 St. Luke's Place New York City	3 or 4 years
PHILIP VIVIANO #554364	Artist Teacher	111 Bank Street New York City	July, 1940 to March, 1941

Examination of WFA employment records of subject Gwendolyn Bennett reflected that she lived at the following addresses during her employment on WFA:

2 West 120th Street, New York City - from January 19, 1933 to date
250 West 154th Street, New York City- from November, 1937
to January 19, 1938
321 West 136th Street, New York City- from July, 1936 to
November, 1937.

DORIS PORTER, Ladies Tailor, Apartment 5-0
MARTHA SPEARS, housewife, Apartment 5-N
HERBERT HAYES, unemployed Disabled World War
 Veteran, Apt. 5-M
JULIA SMITH, housemaid, Apartment 5-J
INEZ PEREZ, hat checker, Apartment 5-P
NATHANIEL COOPER, cook, Apartment 5-E
MRS. ZENA GIBSON, housewife, Apartment 5-A
MRS. DOROTHY NELSON, housewife, Apartment 5-B
MRS. LAULIE WASHINGTON, housewife, Apartment 5-C
MRS. LORA CLARK, housewife, Apartment 5-D,

all residents of 2 West 120th Street, New York City, on April 12, 1941, advised Agent Sherry that they do not know Subject Bennett and that they never heard of her; that they do not mix socially or otherwise with the other tenants in this apartment house and do not know who lives in Apartment 5-L; and that they know of no Communist activities on the part of anyone at this address. They further stated that they have resided at this address, 2 West 120th Street, as follows:

Doris Porter and Martha Spears for past 5 years
 Herbert Hayes since July, 1940
 Julia Smith for past 3 years
 Inez Perez for past 5 months
 Nathaniel Cooper for past year
 Zena Gibson for past 4 years
 Dorothy Nelson for past 2 years
 Laulie Washington for past 5 years
 Lora Clark for past 5 years.

GEORGE WHITE, store owner at 1494 Fifth Avenue, residing at Apartment 5-P, 2 West 120th Street, New York City, advised Agent Sherry on April 12, 1941, that he has resided in this apartment for the past five years; and that subject, whom he knows only by the name of Gwendolyn Bennett, has resided at 2 West 120th Street in Apartment 5-L since about January, 1938 and that she is an occasional customer at his store; that he has only contacted her on occasions when she came to his store; that he knows nothing whatever about her that would indicate in any way that she is or was a member of the Communist Party or a sympathizer with the Communist form of government, or that she ever engaged in any Communist activities, and that he knows none of her associates or anything about her occupation or work.

RONALD STANFORD, agent for owners of Park View Apartment house, 2 West 120th Street, residing in Apartment 4-B thereof; CLIFFORD CARTER, superintendent of Park View Apartment house, residing therein; and GEORGE OTTLEY, doorman at Park View Apartment house, residing at 417 Manhattan Avenue, New York City, on April 12, 1941, advised Agent Sherry that subject, whom they know only as GWENBOLYN BENNETT, has resided at Apartment 5-L at this Park View Apartment house since January, 1938, and that she pays the rent of that apartment. They further stated that Subject Bennett, who is a colored woman, was married to a white man, with whom she resides at this address, sometime about the early part of the summer of 1940, but they do not know her husband or her married name; that subject is a quiet woman who does not associate with other tenants; that they never observed any of her associates; that they have no evidence of any kind that she is a member of the Communist Party; and they never heard or observed any Communist activities or sympathies on her part and have no reason to believe that she is inclined toward Communism.

The files of the New York City Police Department, including the Criminal Alien Squad, have been examined and contain no information concerning subject.

DANIEL BURROWS, real estate dealer, 209 West 125th Street, and Democratic Leader of the 19th Assembly District, residing at 2257 Seventh Avenue, New York City; LOUIS LEVI, Deputy Sheriff of New York County, with office at Hall of Records Building, 31 Chambers Street; and Democratic Captain of the 16th Election District of the 19th Assembly District, residing at 115 West 122nd Street; SIDNEY DAVIS, Republican Leader of the 19th Assembly District, residing at 115 West 131st Street, and JAMES ARNOLD, Republican Captain of the 16th Election District of the 19th Assembly District, New York City, when interviewed on April 16, 1941, by Agent Sherry, advised that the address 2 West 120th Street, New York City, is within the 16th Election District of the 19th Assembly District; that subject is unknown to them, and they find no record of her name on their records of registered voters in their district.

DAVID W. WRIGHT, superintendent of the apartment house at 250 West 154th Street, and his wife, MRS. GEORGIANA WRIGHT, on April 16, 1941, advised Agent Sherry, that they have resided at this address for the past 14 years; that they vaguely remember that subject resided in Apartment 12 at this address for about two months from about November, 1937 to January, 1938; that she was an art teacher; that they know nothing further about her, and that they never saw or heard anything that would tend to show that she was ever engaged in any Communistic

activities or that she was a member of the Communist Party or a Communist sympathizer in any way.

MRS. THELMA BRISTOL, housewife, Apartment 11, 250 West 154th Street, New York City, on April 15, 1941, advised Agent Sherry, that she has resided at this address for the past four years, since September, 1937; that she remembers that subject lived at this address in Apartment 12 for about two months in the latter part of 1937; that she knows nothing about any Communist Party membership or Communistic activities or sympathies of any kind on the part of subject or of any Communist associates of subject.

ROBERT JACKSON, stationery store owner and operator at 272 West 154th Street, residing at 266 West 154th Street, New York City, on April 15, 1941, advised Agent Sherry that he has known Subject GRENDOLYN BENNETT for the past five or six years, but he merely knows that she has been connected with a WPA Art Project, and that she lived at 250 West 154th Street for about two months in 1937 up to January, 1938, but he does not know her subsequent residence; that he knows of no membership of subject in the Communist Party or of any Communistic activities or sympathies on her part at any time. He stated she is a quiet, respectable woman and he knows none of her associates.

MRS. BERTHA FISHER, housewife, Apartment 14
MISS LORRAINE DEWON, school student, Apartment 12
MRS. ESTELLE WILLIAMS, housewife, Apartment 8
MRS. MINNIE WITHERSPOON, Apartment 3
MRS. CHRISTINE WALKER, housewife, Apartment 15
MRS. ANNIE COPELAND, housekeeper, Apartment 5
MRS. PAULINE McHARRIS, housewife, Apartment 16

all of 250 West 154th Street, and MRS. ETTA WADDELL, landlady, residence Apartment 16, at 200 West 154th Street, Manhattan, New York City, on April 15, 1941, advised Agent Sherry that Subject Bennett is unknown to them and that they have resided at their present addresses less than two years.

JACOB D. GOODMAN, member of the firm of Jacob Goodman and Co., 271 West 125th Street, Manhattan, real estate dealers, on April 15, 1941, advised Agent Sherry that his firm formerly owned the premises 321 West 136th Street, consisting of a two family apartment house with garage and living quarters in the rear; that he personally had charge of this property for his firm, which sold these premises on December 1, 1937, to a Mrs. A. Hagin of 257 West 136th Street; that he, acting for

his firm, leased the premises numbered 321 West 136th Street for a period of two years up to about November, 1937, to a colored woman named AUGUSTA SAVAGE, who conducted an art studio there; that Savage paid the rental on the premises and that she was the only person he knew residing there during that period; and that Subject BENNETT is unknown to him; that he knows of no Communist activities on the part of Augusta Savage or at the said studio at 321 West 136th Street, New York City, during the above period up to 1937 or at any other time.

ALEXANDER BROWN, landlord, residing at 321 West 136th Street, New York City, stated to Agent Sherry on April 14, 1941, that he has rented these premises since December, 1937, from the owner, a MRS. A. PAGIN of 257 West 136th Street; that he remembers that a colored woman named AUGUSTA SAVAGE, operated an art studio at this address for about two years or less in 1936 and up to about November, 1937, but he knows nothing about her or her associates and that subject is unknown to him.

MRS. A. PAGIN, property owner, 257 West 136th Street, New York City, advised Agent Sherry on April 14, 1941, that she has been the owner of the premises at 321 West 136th Street since December 1, 1937, which she purchased from Jacob Goodman & Co., supra; that she has rented these premises since December 1, 1937, to Alexander Brown, the present occupant; that Subject BENNETT is unknown to her, and that she does not know the names of the occupants and tenants of the premises prior to the time she bought these premises.

MRS. MORA PORTER, housewife, and WILLIAM WILSTON, laborer, residing at 321 West 136th Street, New York City, advised Agent Sherry on April 14, 1941, that they have lived at this address only since January, 1940, and that Subject Bennett is unknown to them. MRS. AMELIA NEANEY, housewife, 317 West 136th Street, and WILLIAM MINOGIA, barber shop porter, 311 West 136th Street, advised Agent Sherry on April 14, 1941, that they have lived at their present addresses less than one year and that Subject Bennett is unknown to them.

MRS. BERTHA ALLEN, social worker, 317 West 136th Street; MRS. BEATRICE ROBERTS, landlady, 319 West 136th Street, and MRS. JOHN BUCK, housewife, 20 Edgecomb Avenue, New York City, on April 14, 1941, advised Agent Sherry that they have lived at their present addresses for several years; that up to about November, 1937 for a period of about 1 1/2 years, a colored woman named AUGUSTA SAVAGE lived at 321 West 136th Street, where she conducted an art studio which was used as a WPA art center, but that Subject Bennett is unknown to them and they cannot remember the names of any persons, except Augusta Savage, who lived at that address prior to November, 1937, or who frequented the studio there;

that they never saw or heard of any Communist activities at this address, 321 West 136th Street, or on the part of Augusta Savage or anyone who frequented her studio.

The Park View Apartment House, 2 West 120th Street, New York City, is a large apartment house of several stories, each story of which contains several apartments inhabited by colored people in the Negro district of Harlem. The apartment house at 250 West 134th Street, New York City, is in a thickly populated Negro district of Harlem, and is about five stories high, with about 20 apartments. The premises 321 West 136th Street consists of a two-family brick house in the Negro district of Harlem, with a garage and additional living quarters in the rear.

The files of the Special House Committee on Un-American Activities have been checked and disclose the following regarding Subject Bennett:

"Negro Playwrights Company, Inc., Harlem Community Art Center, Chairman; Daily Worker, issue of September 15, 1940, P. 7.

"New Masses, Contributor, New Masses issue of June 6, 1939, P. 16."
See P. 6537, Hearings of the Dies Committee.

Examination of the September 15, 1940 issue of the Daily Worker at the New York Public Library, 42nd and Fifth Avenue, New York City, disclosed an article on page 7 thereof by Ben Davis, Jr., reporting events at the launching of the Negro Playwrights Company, Inc. This article expressed delight at the number of persons who attended the gathering and the interest shown by the attendance in behalf of the Negro Theatre Movement in the launching of Negro Playwrights Company, Inc. GWENDOLYN BENNETT is referred to as a poet, and head of the Harlem Community Art Center, and that she lent her dignity and charm as chairman of the Negro Playwrights Company, Inc. PAUL ROBESON and RICHARD WRIGHT are also referred to as special guests of the evening, and in referring to Wright the article sets forth that "it is plain that Wright is trying to tell the world the message of his people under the inspiration of Lenin and Gorky, whom he mentioned in his paper." The article also states, "It is due to the desire of the Negro people themselves for cultural expression--a desire stimulated and revitalized by the Harlem Communist Party--that the Negro Theatre Movement thus begins so encouragingly in Harlem". The article sets forth as members

and associates of the Negro Playwrights Company, Inc., the following: POWELL LINDSAY, Director; ALAINE LOCKE, Author; EDNA THOMAS, Stage Star; REV. W. ROBESON; ROBESON; HUGHES; WRIGHT; MISS BENNETT; MAX YERGAN of the National Negro Congress; OWEN DOLSON; GEORGE NORFORD and GEORGE MURPHY, JR., Director of Publicity in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Examination of the June 6, 1939, issue of "New Masses" revealed the following poem written by GWENDOLYNE BENNETT, which appears on page 16 thereof:

PEACE

Peace
 Not the pale thing
 That sits trembling
 In the councils of men,
 Straining the ear
 Against the first crashing shell;
 Not even this -
 This quiet moment,
 Permeating sweet and lost
 Between the rushing things
 Insistent on their task,
 This hour sequestered
 With intimate music, books and thoughts;
 But rather the white knuckle, clenched
 Against the threat of strife,
 Flacid thought
 Behind the frowning brow
 And the desperate word
 Which passes scarcely mobile lips
 That there shall be no war."

Examination of page 6587, Hearings of the Dies Committee revealed that the Bennett referred to on this page is not subject Gwendolyn Bennett.

A further examination of the report of Hearings before the Subcommittee on Un-American Activities revealed an article on page 1677 of the Appendix, Part 5, marked "Exhibit 35 from the Daily Worker, dated November 17, 1939. This article is a report of a banquet-reception held in honor of Jacques Roumain, Negro poet, exiled from

Haiti, after being sentenced to three years in prison, who denounced the imperialist war in Europe as another attempt of Nazi, British and French imperialism to re-divide the world; that the event was under the auspices of the New York Chapter of the League of American Writers. The article further reflects that several speakers made addresses at this banquet and that several poems were read by Gwendolyn Bennett. One of the speakers, MAX YERGAN, head of the Committee on African Affairs and vice-president of the National Negro Congress, referred to Roumain as the symbol of the fight against imperialism.

The report of the Hearings before the Sub-Committee of the Committee on Appropriations was also examined and on page 1099, part 1, there appears the following under the statement of Charles White, who gave his address at 54 West 118th Street, New York City:

"Mr. Roberts: I hand you a copy of the New York Amsterdam News, and will ask if you can identify the persons in the picture on the front page.

Mr. White: This is a copy of the New York Amsterdam News, published in Harlem.

Mr. Woodrum: What is the date of it?

Mr. White: Saturday, April 22, 1939. On page 6 there is a photograph in the upper left-hand corner.

Mr. Woodrum: What does it say?

Mr. White: It says, 'James Ford honored at dinner'. Underneath there is a photograph with the following explanation:

"Seated at the speakers' table at the banquet given in honor of James W. Ford, Communist candidate for the vice-presidency during the past two elections and author of the recently published book, 'The Negro and the Democratic Front, are (left to right) Mrs. Earl Browder, Mr. Browder, Mr. Ford, James Baker, Miss Gwendolyn Bennett, and Robert Minor."

Looking at the photograph, I can identify Mrs. Browder, the wife of Earl Browder, and the next person to the right is James W. Ford, seated, smoking a cigarette. He is the guest of honor, and was the vice-presidential candidate of the Communist Party. Standing is the toast-master, Mr. James Baker, who up until a week or two ago

was the administrator of one of the district offices of the Home Relief Bureau in Harlem.

Mr. Woodrum: The relief bureau of the City of New York?

Mr. White: Yes, sir. Next to Mr. Baker is Miss Gwendolyn Bennett, administrator of the Upper Harlem Arts Center, for the Harlem section. It is a Federal project operated by the WPA. Seated next to her is Robert Minor, who is an old Bolshevik."

Examination of the New York Amsterdam Star News of April 22, 1939, reveals the following excerpt in an article referring to the James W. Ford dinner:

"Among the distinguished sponsors were Richard Wright, Dr. Max Yergan and authors Kyle Crichton, Ruth McKimsey, Frances Winmar, Countess Cullen, Gwendolyn Bennett and others."

LARRY GRIMES, colored, photographer for the New York Amsterdam Star News, located at 2340 8th Avenue, New York City, upon interview May 7, 1941, stated that he took the photograph of the group at the James W. Ford dinner for the Amsterdam News, which photograph appeared in the issue of the newspaper dated April 22, 1939, on page 6. He declared that this dinner caused a lot of comment in Harlem as many persons were surprised that James Baker, who held a job in the Department of Welfare of the City of New York, was putting himself "on the spot" for appearing as toastmaster at this dinner. He stated that a month after this dinner, JAMES BAKER was dismissed from his position by the Department of Welfare of the City of New York.

GRIMES declared that he did not know Subject GWENDOLYN BENNETT well enough to state whether or not she was sympathetic to Communism. However, he said that Bennett was associated with the Negro Playwrights Company Inc. and he said that he saw the play "The Big white Fog", which was sponsored by Negro Playwrights Company Inc. and this play was definitely Communistic.

Examination of the issue of the New York Amsterdam Star News, dated May 20, 1939, reveals the headline on the first page referring to Baker being fired from the Department of Welfare.

THEODORE R. POSTON, colored, residing at 1206 Canyon Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., in an auxiliary investigation made by Special Field Agents Travis L. Fletcher, E. Jacobs and Joseph C. Rysselski, when interviewed on May 22, 1941, stated that he is employed as Public Relations Counsellor in the Labor Division of Office of Production Management. He said he has known Gwendolyn Bennett for the past four years and met her through his sister-in-law, AUGUSTA SAVAGE, while Bennett was employed as assistant director of the WPA Harlem Community Art Center. He related that when Miss Savage left this project temporarily in 1939 to do a commission at the World's Fair in New York City, Miss Bennett was made the director of this project. He explained that Miss Savage's efforts to regain her former position with the WPA in 1940 were unsuccessful and it was rumored the reason she was not back on this project was that she refused to play along with the Communist Party. He disclaimed any knowledge of Bennett's association with the Communist Party, but suggested that Miss Savage be interviewed. He expressed doubt about Bennett's membership with the Communist Party. In addition to Miss Savage, Poston suggested that the following persons be interviewed with relation to Miss Bennett's possible membership in the Communist Party: HAROLD WILLIAMS, CHARLES WHITE, BERNARD MACKAY and MRS. FRANKIE DUFFY, all colored. He was unable to furnish the addresses of these persons but suggested that Miss Savage would be in a position to furnish this information. This auxiliary investigation also reflects that RALPH MATTHEWS, Managing Editor of the Afro-American, 1800 11th Street, N.W., was interviewed on June 4, 1941, and disclaimed any acquaintance with Gwendolyn Bennett, stating that he was unable to furnish any information relating to her employment activities.

AUGUSTA SAVAGE, colored, supra, upon interview June 7, 1941, stated that she did not know any of the persons mentioned by Theodore Poston. She suggested, however, that agent interview Frank Crosswaith, head of the Harlem Labor Center, 812 West 125th Street. She advised that Crosswaith would know something about Bennett's Communist activities and could be able to furnish the addresses of the persons mentioned by Poston.

FRANK CROSSWAITH, chairman of the Negro Labor Committee at 812 West 125th Street, New York City, when interviewed on June 10, 1941,

declared that he could give no definite information about Subject Bennett's activities in the Communist Party, but he could state definitely that Gwendolyn Bennett is reputed to be a Communist. He suggested that agent interview Edward Welch, who might know more about Bennett's activities. He was unable to furnish the addresses of any person named.

EDWARD WELCH, colored, member of the Negro Labor Committee, residing at 40 Morningside Avenue, New York City, on interview June 10, 1941, stated that Bennett is reputed to be a Communist. He declared that it was rumored in Harlem that the Communists removed AUGUSTA SAVAGE and placed Subject Bennett in charge of the Harlem Community Art Center. He also was unable to furnish the addresses of the persons named by Theodore Paston.

MRS. FRANKIE DUTY, colored, housewife, residing at 237 West 116th Street, New York City, upon interview June 12, 1941, stated that Bennett was reputed to be a Communist, but she could give no proof as she only knew Bennett by name. Mrs. Duty declared that she was formerly a member of the Communist Party, Harlem Section, from March 10, 1936 to October, 1938, at which time she resigned.

HERMAN MacKARAIN, Id. #2694, WPA senior guard at the Commodity Distribution Project, 138th Street and Park Avenue, New York City, residing at 140 West 142nd Street, New York City, when interviewed on June 11, 1941, declared that he did not know Subject Bennett except having heard she was at the head of the Harlem Community Art Center. He advised that he was formerly a member of the Communist Party, Harlem Section, from October, 1930 to August, 1938.

CHARLES WHITE, Id. #372645, WPA Recreation Leader, connected with the WPA Recreational Agencies Project located at 72 Washington Street, New York City, residing at 24 West 118th Street, New York City, upon interview June 12, 1941, stated that he could give no definite information that Subject Bennett was a member of the Communist Party. He said, however, that Gwendolyn Bennett was definitely reputed to be a Communist. White advised that he was formerly a member of the Communist Party from 1929 to 1936 and was also a member of the Central Committee of the Young Communist League and a member and organizer of various Communist organizations. He stated that he had testified before the Woodrum Committee regarding the Ford dinner at which Bennett was seated at the speakers' table with Earl Browder and Robert Minor.

In connection with the GLADYS STONER, referred to in Augusta Savage's statement as the person for whom Subject Bennett lobbied for the position of national secretary of the National Negro Congress, WHITE stated as follows: "I have known Gladys Stoner to be a ranking member of the Communist Party since 1935 and she was still a member of the Communist Party in 1936 when I broke connections with that group. I have reason to believe she is still a member."

Every effort was made to locate HAROLD WILLIAMS, (mentioned by Theodore Poston) by inquiring from various witnesses interviewed and also inquiring at the New York Amsterdam Star News and New York Age, colored publications in Harlem, thus far without success. Records of the WPA were also checked. Several of the witnesses interviewed stated that they knew Harold Williams and that they would make an effort to locate him and notify the New York Field Office.

SIMON WILLIAMSON, Id. #73-161, WPA junior clerk, connected with the Commodity Project at 108 Spring Street, New York City, residing at 133 West 143rd Street, New York City, upon interview June 9, 1941, stated that Subject Bennett is reputed to be a Communist and that he knew her to be one of the sponsors of the James W. Ford banquet (referred to in this report).

NELL G. BECKER, colored, New York City School Teacher in Junior High School #55, 223 Decatur Street, Brooklyn, New York, residing at 710 Putnam Avenue, Brooklyn, on interview May 6, 1941, stated that during October, 1940, the Negro Playwrights Company Inc. presented a play at the Lincoln Theatre on 155th Street near Lenox Avenue, New York City, called "The Big White Fog", which she attended as a correspondent for the Chicago Defender and the Afro-American of Baltimore, Negro publications. She stated that this was a play of Negro life in the slums and the entire theme and motive of this play was to stir up class conflict and dissatisfaction with the present political regime. She related that the play ended with the leading actor, (who portrayed the father of a poor negro family) dying and a group of white and colored Communists appeared on the scene and offered salvation to the negroes. She related that the leading actor in the last scene had been dispossessed for failure to pay rent and when the Communists entered they brought back his furniture and defied the law. She said that just before the last curtain a song was sung by the Communists giving the idea of unity, comradeship and freedom under Communism. She declared that Gwendolyn Bennett's picture appeared in the program as one of the associate members of the Negro Playwrights Company Inc. producing this play. She related that she never wrote up any criticism

of the play for the newspapers she represented because the play was definitely Communistic and disgusted her. She further stated that the play was sponsored by people who were reputed to be Communists and were known to be interested in Communist activities in Harlem.

WILLIAM CHASE, colored, WPA art director, connected with the New York Amsterdam Star News, a colored publication in Harlem, when interviewed on May 7, 1941, declared that he has known Bennett during the last ten years; that he has met her on a number of occasions at social and cultural gatherings and has gotten to know her very well during the past four years. He said that BENNETT was a close friend of PAUL ROBESON and RICHARD WRIGHT; that Paul Robeson is reputed to be a Communist and Richard Wright is an admitted Communist. He stated that he attended the launching of the Negro Playwrights Company Inc. at the Golden Gate Ballroom in September, 1940, and at this launching Richard Wright, who was introduced by Gwendolyn Bennett, chairman of the evening, admitted that he was a Communist when he addressed the audience. He further stated that it was quite obvious at this launching that the Negro Playwrights Company Inc. was Communist-backed and influenced. He stated that this Negro Playwrights Company Inc. produced "The Big White Fog" at the Lincoln Theatre in October, 1940; that this play was very Communistic as it tended to incite and create dissatisfaction and in the last scene when the leading actor was dying, it showed the Communist Party offering the solution to the Negro problem.

CHASE declared that he believed BENNETT was one of the group of negroes who went to Russia in 1931 or 1932 to make a Negro film. He explained that the idea of this film was to portray the life of the Negro as has never been seen in American films. He explained that he believed not all members of the group were necessarily Communist because many of them came back very disillusioned. He declared that he could give no definite information about Bennett being a Communist because he had never heard her openly declare herself as such.

DAN BURLEY, colored, sports editor and formerly theatrical editor of the New York Amsterdam Star News, when interviewed on May 13, 1941, stated that he has known Bennett for about 2 1/2 years as director of the Harlem Community Art Center. He explained that he was only slightly acquainted with Miss Bennett and he knew that her activities and sympathies were in the channels of the Communist Party. He declared that he attended the opening night of the play "The Big White Fog"

in order to review the play for the New York Amsterdam Star News and that he also attended the launching of the Negro Playwrights Company Inc., which company sponsored "The Big White Fog" at the Lincoln Theatre in Harlem. He asserted that both the play and the launching were definitely Communist.

EARL BROWN, colored, correspondent for Time and Life Magazines, at the Time and Life building, New York City, residing at 745 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York City, on interview May 19, 1941, stated that Bennett has been identified with the Communist group and Communist movement and activities in Harlem for the last few years which have been purportedly controlled by and identified with Communism. He explained that he based this statement on conversations held with people and Bennett's concern and interest in activities in Harlem which have been thought of as Communist supported, such as the Negro Playwrights Company Inc., "The Big White Fog", and a dinner given in honor of James W. Ford, the Communist candidate for vice-president. He stated that Bennett is accepted in the community as a person associated with and sympathetic with activities which have been thought of as Communist.

BESSIE BEARDEN, Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue, Audit Section, 3rd District of New York, 110 East 45th Street, residing at 50 Morningside Avenue, New York City, upon interview May 22, 1941, stated that she had no knowledge of Bennett's activities as she, Bearden, has always refused to have anything to do with any movement or activity in Harlem which was Communist. Bearden declared that she is a member of the Citizens Sponsoring Committee of the Harlem Community Art Center and she knows that BENNETT has associated with LOUISE THOMPSON, present wife of William Patterson, Communist candidate for Congress in Chicago, MOLLIE HOON, ALTA DOUGLAS and others who have been connected with Communist activities.

FLOYD SWELSON, colored, New York representative of the Chicago Defender, contributor to P.M. and New York Age, all newspaper publications, formerly a WPA writer and editor, upon interview May 22, 1941, declared that he has known Bennett for about ten years in the community of Harlem, through his connection with newspaper work in the community during this period and he also met Bennett at different social functions in Harlem. He stated that she has associated with people who are considered Communists, such as Paul Robeson and Richard Wright, and he further explained that Bennett has a reputation of being a Communist in Harlem. He said that he never discussed any political

matters with Bennett and never heard her make any declarations or statements which in any way indicated that she was a Communist.

SHELSON explained that during 1938 when he was connected with WPA Writers Project, his co-workers urged him to attend a meeting at Communist headquarters, at which time they induced him to enroll as a member. He said that the Party accepted \$0.60 from him at this meeting but because he never attended meetings or took part in any of their activities one of the Communist members returned his \$0.60 to him and told him he was not accepted as a member in the Party. He explained that the group that attended this meeting were all writers from the WPA project and for this reason he could not have seen Bennett even if she were a member of the Party because as a member she would have been tied up with some other unit of the Communist organization.

IDA M. DUDLEY, colored, bookkeeper for the New York Age, colored publication, at 230 West 135th Street, New York City, when interviewed on May 13, 1941, stated that she has known GWENDOLYN BENNETT for many years and that Bennett is referred to as a Communist in the community of Harlem. She stated that Bennett has associated with a Communist group in Harlem for the last two or three years to her knowledge and that she has been interested in Communistic activities in Harlem.

MARY E. FINEER, colored, reporter on the New York Age, at 230 West 135th Street, New York City, upon interview May 13, 1941, stated that she has known Bennett during the last year and that she has only spoken to her on a few occasions. She asserted that during this period that she knew Bennett she has heard, on several occasions, that she, Bennett, was a member of the Communist Party. She could not recall the names of the persons who referred to Bennett as a member of the Communist Party.

THELMA BERLACH BOCKER, colored, woman editor of the New York Amsterdam Star News, at 2540 8th Avenue, New York City, on interview May 13, 1941, stated that she has known Bennett socially for 15 years. She declared that she had no knowledge of any Communist activities or sympathies on the part of subject. She stated that at the time AUGUSTA SAVAGE was replaced by Gwendolyn Bennett, as director of the Harlem Community Art Center, about three years ago, there were rumors in the community of Harlem that the Communists were instrumental in this change of positions. She said that she could not back this statement because she does not know the facts. She declared that subject is married to a white man named Richard Book Crosscup, who formerly taught

in some private school in Boston and who is now teaching in a private school in New York City.

LUDLOW WERNER, colored, managing editor of the New York Age, 230 West 185th Street, New York City, when interviewed May 13, 1941, stated that he has known Bennett for a number of years. He declared that he had no knowledge of Communist activities and sympathies on the part of Bennett except that he heard rumors to the effect that she was a Communist. He related that Bennett was formerly a teacher at Howard University and she had been removed from this university because of a scandal in which she was involved.

ER. CLYTON POWELL, president and editor of the New York Amsterdam Star News, located at 2340 8th Avenue, New York City, upon interview May 7, 1941, stated that he has known GWENDOLYN BENNETT slightly in connection with the Harlem Community Art Center. He declared that he knew nothing about her activities. He said that he had not known she appeared in his newspaper in a group picture of the James W. Ford dinner, but it was his belief that Bennett's presence at the banquet table with Ford was a strong indication that she is a Communist because no one but a Communist would be there. He said that his opinion, of course, was confidential and off the record.

MRS. CARRIE HAMER, colored, housewife, residing at 210 West 149th Street, New York City, upon interview May 6, 1941, stated that she has known Bennett about fifteen years. She declared that she did not know of anything that would indicate Communist activities or sympathies on the part of subject. She did not believe Gwendolyn Bennett was a Communist.

Attached hereto and marked EXHIBIT 2 is a photostated copy of a page of the program distributed at the Lincoln Theatre by the Negro Playwrights Company Inc. at the time that the play was presented at the Lincoln Theatre in the fall of 1940. This exhibit shows the associate members of the Negro Playwrights Company Inc. and their photographs. These persons are: PAUL ROBESON, RICHARD WRIGHT, EDNA THOMAS, MAX YERGAN, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, REV. JOHN W. ROBINSON and ALAIN LOCKE. All of these persons, with the exception of Rev. John W. Robinson, have been identified by the persons interviewed as Communist sympathizers and persons definitely interested in Communist activities in the community of Harlem.

SELMA BURKE, supra, declared that Alain Locke, Max Yergan, Edna Thomas, Richard Wright and Paul Robeson were definitely known as Communists.

BESSIE BEARDEN, supra, referred to Richard Wright, Paul Robeson and Max Yergan as Communists.

WILLIAM CHASE, supra, stated that Richard Wright openly admitted that he was a Communist at the launching of the Negro Playwrights Company Inc.

SARAH WEST, supra, referred to Richard Wright, Paul Robeson and Max Yergan as Communists.

FLOYD SHELSON, supra, said that Paul Robeson and Richard Wright are considered Communists.

An article in the World-Telegram of April 23, 1941, refers to MAX YERGAN as president of the National Negro Congress and a leader in various Communist causes. This same article sets forth that Yergan has been dropped as history lecturer at City College, New York City. It is also stated in this article that "Mr. Yergan was elected president of the National Negro Congress last year after A. Philip Randolph refused reelection because he opposed accepting money from the Communist Party. Last week Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt withdrew her sponsorship of a Paul Robeson concert under the auspices of the Washington Committee for Aid to China after she learned that the National Negro Congress had joined in backing the affair."

Examination of the Daily Worker of September 30, 1940, reveals the following headline: "Richard Wright, author of Native Son, Backs James W. Ford and Earl Browder", Communist candidates for vice-president and president, respectively.

Examination of the Daily Worker of October 24, 1940, on page 7, reveals a four column review of the play "The Big White Fog", together with a photograph of a closing scene of the play. This review praises the production of this play by the Negro Playwrights Company Inc. and urges every reader of the Daily Worker to see "The Big White Fog".

A person who requested that his identity be held in confidence, stated that he was a charter member of the Communist Party and a member of that Party until 1937 and that he was closely affiliated with the Party until June, 1939, when interviewed on May 22, 1941, by Clayton D. Hollinger, Field Agent in Charge, stated that GWENDOLYN BENNETT has always been connected with the intellectual group of the Communist Party and that she was close to James W. Ford, vice-presidential candidate for the Communist Party. He declared that Bennett has been on all kinds of

committees for housing and relief in Harlem, that in 1937 or 1938 she was on the committee with MIKE GOLD, whose column appears daily in the Daily Worker, CARLTON BEALS, and other writers, operating under Communist sponsorship to justify and defend the Trotsky shootings in Russia.

He asserted that to his knowledge GWENDOLYN BENNETT was a member of the Communist Party Publicity Committee for the New York District during 1936, 1937 and part of 1938. He advised that WILLIAMNA BURROUGHS, well-known Communist teacher, who was expelled from the public schools some time ago, is very close to Gwendolyn Bennett.

(BENNETH SLOCUM of the Rapp-Coudert Committee which is investigating Communist activities in the education system of the State of New York, advised Special Field Agent John A. Bram on May 23, 1941, that WILLIAMNA BURROUGHS was a candidate for Lieutenant-Governor of the Communist Party (magazine "Working Women", October, 1934, page 8) and was also a candidate for Comptroller of the City of New York on the Communist Party ticket (Daily Worker, November 6, 1933, page 2). He further advised that Burroughs appears on the signature book of the Registrar of Electors for the year 1933 as a duly enrolled member of the Communist Party. Slocum also advised that Burroughs was tried before the Board of Education Law Committee on June 13, 1933, charged with conduct unbecoming a teacher, and was dismissed.)

He further related that Bennett was also a very close friend of RYLE CRITCHFON, writer in Collier's magazine, who is known to him as a Communist, and who writes for the Party under the pen name of Robert Forsyth.

He stated that he knows that Gwendolyn Bennett's present husband, Richard Crosscup, was a Communist in 1935 and may still be. According to our witness, Crosscup is very friendly with Cyril Bricks, staff member of the Daily Worker. He further stated that he has seen Crosscup often at the Communist Party office on 13th Street, and many times in the Workers Book Shop, located in the same building, as recent as 1938; that Crosscup is a personal friend of Richard D. Moore, Communist Party field organizer.

MARTIN ARUNDEL, Id. #616461, WPA writer, residing at 325 East 55th Street, New York City, (subject in Case 5-NY-3520), when interviewed by Field Agent in Charge Clayton D. Hollinger, in the

presence of Agent Cohen, on May 28, 1941, identified photographs of Gwendolyn Bennett, which were shown to him. He stated she was known to him as "RUTH GALE". He said he could not say whether she was or was not a member of the Communist Party. However, he declared that she was, according to the language of the "Leftists", one who had been in the "movement" some time.

ARUNDEL recalled that in 1934 or 1935 she was "hanging around" a Communist paper in Harlem (the name he could not recall) and was also during this period identified with a Communist club, which he could not at this time identify by name.

ARNOLD SCOTT, colored, residing at 1615 Wylie Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa., in a signed statement EXHIBIT 8, dated May 28, 1941, stated that during the fall of 1939, he attended a meeting held by the Communist Party at the Northside Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh, Pa., and that he recalled that a Miss GWENDOLYN BENNETT from New York City spoke at this meeting. He said that while he could not exactly remember what Miss Bennett said he knew she urged all workers to unite and support the Communist Party. The picture of Gwendolyn Bennett appearing in the program of the play "The Big White Fog" was shown to Scott and he identified her as the same person who spoke at the Northside Carnegie Library. Scott further declared that around election time in 1940 he read in the local Daily Worker that Gwendolyn Bennett spoke again at the Northside Carnegie Library. He recalled that this was around the beginning of November, 1940, just before Election Day. He said that this meeting was also sponsored by the Communist Party. Scott orally stated that he had formerly been a Communist but dropped out of the Party. He declared that he would speak to two of his former Communist friends, Isiah Hawkins and Ernest Careathers, as he knew that they had attended the meeting at the Northside Carnegie Library during the election campaign period of 1940. He explained that he did not know where these persons resided but believed he would be able to locate them through other friends of his sometime in the near future and he thought that Isiah Hawkins might be employed with Jones and Laughlin.

The personnel files of the Jones and Laughlin Company were checked and failed to reveal that any person bearing the name of ISIAH HAWKINS had ever been employed by that firm.

VICTOR FREDIANI, president of the Frediani Printing Company, 71 Elm Street, Pittsburgh, Pa., interviewed on May 24, 1941, stated that during the election campaign season of 1940 he printed 16,000

four-page leaflets for a Communist meeting at the Northside Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh. He stated that this meeting was said to be held on behalf of James W. Ford, colored, Communist candidate for vice-president. Frediani said that he also printed other circulars and leaflets for Communist meetings in Braddock and Duquesne, Pa., that at the request of Communists who had placed orders for these circulars, he also printed a Daily Worker, Western Pennsylvania edition, for the Communist Party with the permission of the Daily Worker in New York, and that this was done just around election time in 1940. He declared that he did not keep any of the leaflets, circulars or newspapers which he had printed for the Party, explaining that he knew the public was not in favor of Communism and he did not wish to keep this type of literature around his place of business. Frediani said that he did not know any person named Gwendolyn Bennett and that all he was interested in was printing the material for the Party and being paid for it.

The following persons were interviewed for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not Subject Gwendolyn Bennett appeared in Pennsylvania to campaign for the Communist Party, and all stated that they did not know the subject:

JAMES H. ROBERTSON, colored, and FRED W. GOOD, Lieutenants of Police, and WILLIAM E. SMITH, colored, Detective, all assigned to the Detectives Division, City Detective Bureau, Short and Eater Streets, Pittsburgh, Pa.;

E. J. ROSE, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Post Office Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.;

SALVATORE CANCELLIERI, American Legion Commander, residing at 224 South Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.;

VINCENT JOHNSON, former labor reporter, presently radio columnist with the Post-Gazette, Post-Gazette Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.;

JOSEPH SHEA, labor reporter with the Post-Gazette, Pittsburgh, Pa.;

MAURICE BOSS, colored, in charge of the Urban League, 1300 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.;

ROGER LAWS, private citizen, known to the police as a former Communist, 2441 Bedford Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.;

IRA LEWIS, president and general manager of the Pittsburgh Courier, a colored newspaper weekly publication, Pittsburgh Courier Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.;

TED COLEMAN and WENDEL SMITH, editors, Pittsburgh Courier, Pittsburgh, Pa.;

JULIA JONES, society editor, Pittsburgh Courier, Pittsburgh, Pa.;

WILLIAM P. HALCY, Chief of Police, Duquesne, Pa.;

HARRY C. JONES, policeman, Duquesne, Pa.;

MR. BUTLER, Chief of Police, Braddock, Pa.

GEORGE SEIBEL, superintendent of the Northside Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, Pa., interviewed on May 28, 1941, stated that the Communist Party held two meetings in Carnegie Library Hall in 1940, on October 4 and November 2. He explained that the Party had paid for the privilege of using the hall and no record was kept of any of the speakers or persons who were interested in the meetings. He declared that he was not present at the meetings and did not know nor had he ever heard of Subject GWENDOLYN BENNETT. He stated that Robert Mullen, night watchman at the library, was the only employee who was present during the Communist meetings held at the hall, that it was Mullen's duty to see that the lights were turned on and off and that the place was properly closed when the meeting was over.

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(Agent's Note: November, 1940, is a Saturday. Examination of subject's Bi-weekly time card (Form WPA-NYC 587) reflected that subject was not credited with time on this date as she was not scheduled to work.)

ROBERT MULLEN, night watchman at the Northside Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, Pa., when interviewed May 28, 1941, stated that he was present at the meetings held by the Communist Party at the library on October 4 and November 2, 1940. He said he did not know the names of those who spoke at the meetings and when shown the picture of Gwendolyn Bennett he was unable to identify her. He explained that he would not know whether or not she was present at the meetings as he had no interest in the speakers and did not pay any attention to the persons who attended.

Records of the Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Post-Gazette, the Pittsburgh Courier, and the

Northside Carnegie Library were checked, and no information relating to Subject Bennett was found.

All of the issues of the Pittsburgh Courier for October and November, 1940, were examined and no information regarding subject was found.

Guests registration cards for the months of October and November, 1940, at the Bailey Hotel, 1535 Center Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa., were examined and it was found that neither Gwendolyn Bennett nor James W. Ford registered at that hotel during this period. The Bailey Hotel is a hotel for colored people in Pittsburgh and agent was advised by the Police Department witnesses and the editors of the Pittsburgh Courier that Ford or Bennett would have registered at this hotel when in Pittsburgh unless they were staying at the homes of friends.

HARRY BAILEY, colored, proprietor of the Bailey Hotel, 1535 Center Street, Pittsburgh, Pa., interviewed on May 26, 1941, stated that he recalled that James Ford, the vice-presidential candidate of the Communist Party, stayed at his hotel during the election campaign season of 1940. He explained that his guests registration cards had been examined and re-examined on other occasions by the Police Department, so it was possible that the registration card of James W. Ford had been misplaced. He declared that James W. Ford was alone at the time he remained at the hotel and said he did not know any person named Gwendolyn Bennett. Upon examining Subject Bennett's picture, Bailey stated he was quite positive she had not stayed at his hotel.

STANLEY CARROLL, colored, night clerk at the Bailey Hotel, interviewed on May 26, 1941, stated that James W. Ford, the vice-presidential candidate of the Communist Party, stayed at the Bailey Hotel alone just before Election Day in 1940. He stated he was positive of this because Ford asked him to vote for the Communist Party and also asked him to listen to the speech of Earl Browder, which was to be broadcast over a nation-wide ^{radio} hook-up.

An auxiliary investigation was made by Special Field Agent John P. Conlin, Boston Field Office, for the purpose of securing information from the Boston police authorities, regarding Communist activities of Richard Crosscup and his wife, Gwendolyn Bennett, alleged Communists. He submitted the following:

"TIMOTHY C. MURPHY, executive secretary, and CAPTAIN STOKES, chief of detectives, both of the Massachusetts State Department of Safety, Commonwealth Pier, Boston, Massachusetts, on May 23, 1941, checked their records and files of alleged Communists and known agitators in the Boston area but were unable to discover any information concerning either RICHARD CROSCUP, or his wife, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, (negro). They stated that their files listed all known or alleged Communists in the Boston area up to six months ago.

Assistant Field Agent in Charge West of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 10 Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts, on May 23, 1941, after examination of bureau files in the Boston Field Office of the Bureau, stated that they had no record of either Crosscup or Bennett being active in Communist or subversive activities in the Boston area. West stated that the Bureau files are up to date.

The local Police Department of the City of Boston were unable to furnish information of any kind on the origin or activities of Crosscup or Bennett in this vicinity."

WPA NYC Form 89, Education and Experience Record, submitted by Subject Gwendolyn Bennett reflects that she gave no personal references, and revealed the following previous business experience:

On June, 1932, employed as Publicity Director by W. C. Handy Music Pub. Co., 1547 Broadway, Manhattan, for 1 1/2 years at a salary of \$55.00 per week.

In 1930, employed as a teacher at the Eusta Public School, Eusta, Florida, for one year, at \$35.00 per week, teaching French and English, second and third year high.

Employed as assistant editor of "Opportunity" magazine, 1133 Broadway, Manhattan, for 3 years, 1929, at \$50.00 per week, editing, writing copy, conducting a literary column and proofreading.

Free lance writing for the Herald Tribune, but no dates or salary shown.

Under Education and Experience, Subject Bennett in WPA-NYC Form 89 furnished the following information:

That she was graduated from elementary and high school and had three years of college; that she was a graduate of Pratt Institute; and also had studied art for one year at the Academie Colorossi, Paris, France.

A letter dated February 18, 1941, made a part of the complaint material correspondence, from HANDY BROS. MUSIC COMPANY, 1587 Broadway, New York City, signed by J. RUSSELL ROBINSON, manager, and addressed to Mr. E. G. Sabino, Director, division of employment, WPA, 70 Columbus Avenue, New York City, sets forth that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was in the employ of W. C. HANDY for about one and one-half years as director of publicity, and he, Handy, found her services all that could be desired.

Another letter, dated February 28, 1941, from PRATT INSTITUTE, Brooklyn, New York, signed by JAMES C. BOUDREAU, director, addressed to the personnel section of the WPA, 70 Columbus Avenue, New York City, sets forth that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was a student of Pratt Institute from September, 1922 to June, 1924, taking a two year day course in normal art, and on June 19, 1924, she was awarded the diploma of the institute for the satisfactory completion of this course.

A letter from the EUSTIS VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, Eustis, Florida, dated April 23, 1941, addressed to the New York Field Office, advised that a teacher named Mrs. Gwendolyn Bennett Jackson worked at the Eustis School.

E. R. JONES, executive secretary of "Opportunity" magazine, 1153 Broadway, New York City, interviewed by Special Field Agent Lowell H. Ewing on April 18, 1941, stated that there were no records available of employees who worked with the Opportunity magazine around 1929; that he had heard that Subject Bennett had worked for Opportunity magazine at one time but he could give no further information, explaining that the subject worked with this magazine prior to the time that he and all present employees worked there. He showed agent a copy of the magazine dated October, 1927, which carried an article by Subject GWENDOLYN BENNETT and also showed agent an application for employment filed with the magazine by Subject Bennett in September, 1934.

In a telephone interview on May 1, 1941, Agent Ewing was advised by the personnel office of the Herald Tribune that all records prior to 1940 were placed in bond storage and are not available.

In Subject Bennett's statement to Brennan and Sherwin, supra, made a part of the complaint material, she states that she taught at HOWARD UNIVERSITY, Washington, D. C., from September, 1924 to June, 1925, and from September, 1926 to June, 1927, and that she has a degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City.

Examination of the records of Columbia Teachers College, located at 551 West 120th Street, New York City, by Agent Ewing on May 1, 1941, revealed that Gwendolyn Bennett was registered there as a student during the years 1920,-1921, 1921,-1922, 1924 (summer session), 1935,-1936 and 1936,-1937, and that she was awarded a B.S. degree in 1937.

GUSTAVE AUZENNE, assistant treasurer of Howard University, advised that no records were maintained regarding instructors during the period when subject was employed. However, yearly catalogues of the school were consulted and disclosed that Gwendolyn Bennett was employed as an instructor of art for the school term of 1924-1925; that she was on leave of absence for the 1925-1926 term, but returned for the succeeding school year, when she was again instructor in art, and there was nothing to indicate that her services were either dissatisfactory or otherwise.

AUZENNE suggested that Professor JAMES V. HERRING, head of the art department, might remember Subject Bennett as he was teaching at that time. Professor Herring advised that although he does not remember subject very vividly, he does know that she taught at Howard; that he does not recall her reason for leaving the University, nor does he recall ever having conducted discussions of a social nature with her. His recollection is that she was a gifted person and that she received a fellowship of some sort. Her work, as he recalls, was almost entirely in the field of designing rather than in water color or figure painting so any social trends in her work would not be noticeable. He stated that he believed she had several poems published, although he was not certain that he remembers the magazines, but believed that they were "Survey Graphic" and "Opportunity" and "Price".

CHARLES S. JOHNSON, director of Fisk University, department of social science, Nashville, Tennessee, in a letter dated April 17, 1941, addressed to Clayton D. Hollinger, Field Agent in Charge of the New York Field Office, EXHIBIT 4, sets forth that based upon an acquaintance of more than fifteen years, he is convinced that Subject BENNETT has no connections with the Communist Party and that she is not interested in such philosophy. He relates that she is a capable artist and that she has proved herself an able administrator; that he has come to know her when, as editor of Opportunity, a magazine, in 1922 to 1923, he was seeking out young Negro artists and writers who gave promise of mature development in their field. He asserts that Subject Bennett's record has continued to justify his confidence in her; that he feels convinced that in this particular instance an injustice is being done to Subject Bennett.

A list of persons to whom the Daily Worker of March 19, 1941, and the Sunday Worker of March 23, 1941, was sent through the mails in New York City was secured from a confidential source but did not contain the name of Subject Bennett.

A list of signers of Communist petitions circulated in New York City in 1939 and a few in 1940 for the purpose of nominating Communist candidates for certain elective offices, which list was compiled from such petitions by the office of John A. Brann, former WPA administrative assistant, (now in the possession of Stephen Birmingham, investigator for the Dies Committee in New York City), was checked by Special Field Agent Aaron Salsman and subject's name was not found in such list.

A list of signers of Communist petitions circulated in New York City in 1940 and 1941, which list was compiled by the New York City Criminal Alien Squad under the direction of Captain Connelly, was checked by Special Field Agent Brann and subject's name was not found in said list. This list does not contain the names of all of the signers of petitions for 1940 and 1941, as the compilation has not yet been completed, about 65% of the names of signers of such petitions have been compiled to date.

A list of persons who sent letters to the New York City Board of Elections protesting the removal of the Communist Party from the ballot was secured by Agent Brann, (former WPA administrative assistant), and subject's name was not found on said list.

The files of the New York City Police Department, including the Criminal Alien Squad, have been examined and contain no information concerning subject.

The files of the New York City Welfare Department were examined and contain no information of Communist activities on the part of subject.

The WPA Finance Division, 70 Columbus Avenue, New York City, advised that Subject Gwendolyn Bennett was paid a total of \$1,241.64 since July 1, 1940, and no checks have been withheld.

A letter^{was} sent to Subject Bennett by the New York Field Office for an appointment at 2:00 p.m. on April 2, 1941, and, as a result, LINCOLN ROTHSCILD telephoned Agent Porcelli and advised that Subject Bennett would not appear and requested that her appointment be put off indefinitely. Agent Porcelli requested to speak to Subject Gwendolyn Bennett and a woman answered the telephone, representing herself to be Subject Bennett and stated that she was not appearing at the appointed time specified in the Field Office letter. She requested that the appointment be deferred for a few days. She explained that if she were to appear for an interview, she wanted a transcript of her statement and statements of witnesses interviewed in connection with her investigation. She declared that she wanted witnesses present when she appeared for interview.

Subject Gwendolyn Bennett in a letter to the New York Field Office dated April 25, 1941, stated as follows:

"..... I feel it only fair, in order to arrive at a just and impartial decision in my case, that:

- 1) I be given a copy of the specific charges that have been made against me—a simple bill of particulars;
- 2) that my accuser or accusers be made to make their accusations in person;
- 3) that investigations around my case be confined to circumstances connected with the charge or charges;
- 4) and that I receive a transcript of the proceedings of interviews relative to my case.

I feel that such requests are only in keeping with ordinary rights accorded to all citizens in this country. Until a favorable reply is given on these requests I should like to postpone my appointment with your office."

Under date of May 3, 1941, a letter was transmitted from Clayton D. Hollinger, Field Agent in Charge, to Gwendolyn Bennett, informing her that the demands made by her must be denied with the advice that she would be permitted to have her attorney present during the interview. In a letter dated May 29, 1941, Subject BENNETT advised the New York Field Office that she had arranged to appear with her attorney at the field office at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 4, 1941.

In a question and answer statement on June 4, 1941, EXHIBIT 5, conducted by Clayton D. Hollinger, Field Agent in Charge, and Joseph A. Porcelli, Special Field Agent, in the presence of MORRIS REUEL, her attorney, Subject Bennett denied that she was ever a Communist or a member of the Communist Party; that she lobbied for the Young Communist League or any other Communist organization; that she did publicity work for any Communist organization or the Communist Party; that she ever was in Pittsburgh or spoke in behalf of Communist candidates or any Communist cause; that she was ever on any Committee to defend Russia or the Trotsky shootings in Russia; that she ever wrote under a pen name, or that she ever read any Communist literature.

Subject BENNETT further denied that she was ever friendly with or associated with RICHARD WRIGHT, an avowed Communist, or JAMES W. FORD, vice-presidential candidate for the Communist Party, explaining that she knew them from their names and having seen them; however, she refused to answer when asked if she was present at a dinner given to Ford and sitting at the speakers' table with EARL BROWDER and ROBERT MINOR, former and present executive secretaries of the Communist Party. She further refused to answer questions submitted to her regarding her being present at the National Negro Congress Convention in Philadelphia, or submitting a report about Communistic activities at this convention. She also refused to answer whether or not she was present at the Negro Congress Convention as a delegate or alternate of any organization. She refused to answer when asked if she was a member of any organization. She further refused to answer questions regarding her interest in any Russian-Negro film movement; whether or not she sponsored a dinner to James W. Ford and whether or not she was associated with any Communist front organization. When asked if she ever read the Daily Worker she refused to answer and when asked regarding her reading poetry and being present at a banquet given in honor of JACQUES ROUMAINE she refused to give any answer.

When first asked about her association with the Negro Playwrights Company Inc., Subject GWENDOLYN BENNETT refused to answer this question, however, she later explained that she was just the chairman at the launching of the Negro Playwrights Co. Inc. at the request of Langston Hughes, with the understanding that no political matters were to be discussed. She declared that the National Negro Playwrights Company Inc. may have used her name in connection with their activities but this was done without her consent.

Subject BENNETT then went on to state that when she found her name was used by the Negro Playwrights Company Inc. she objected to the secretary, whom she did not know. She then declared that she never attended any of the plays sponsored by this organization.

In connection with her poetry appearing in the Daily Worker, Subject Bennett said this was done without her authority and as a result she wrote a letter to the Daily Worker and someone from the Daily Worker telephoned her and explained that they had obtained her poems from a copy of proceedings of public meetings.

When asked if she knew WILLIAM PATTERSON, Communist candidate for Congress, Subject Bennett stated that she has never seen him and does not know him, however, she admitted knowing his wife but refused to give her name. She said she was born in Giddings, Texas, July 8, 1902.

A letter was sent to the Health Department, Giddings, Texas, and in response to this letter, W. E. Harburger, County Clerk, advised that the birth records of Giddings, Texas began with the year 1903 and, consequently, the birth of Gwendolyn Bennett is not of record there.

Investigation Completed

June 12, 1941.

AFFIDAVIT REQUIRED BY THE EMERGENCY RELIEF APPROPRIATION ACT FISCAL YEAR 1941

Gwendolyn C. Bennett
(Print name)

Identification No. 234556

Man.

N.Y. Case No.

(City or town)

(State)

being an applicant for employment or an employee paid from funds appropriated to the Work Projects Administration, and being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. That I am a citizen of the United States.
2. That I do not and will not advocate or hold membership in any organization that advocates the overthrow of the Government of the United States.
3. And further, that I am not an alien, nor a Communist, nor a member of any Nazi Bund organization, and that I will not become a Communist or a member of any Nazi Bund organization during any time I may be paid from funds appropriated to the Work Projects Administration.

WITNESS TO SIGNATURE: (Required only when person signs by mark.)

(Name)

(Address)

(Town)

(Name)

(Address)

(Town)

16-15463

NOTICE

Attention is directed to a provision in the EHA Act, fiscal year 1941, to the effect that any person who knowingly and with intent to defraud the United States Government makes any false statement in connection with any application for any employment or relief aid under the appropriations in the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act, fiscal year 1941, shall be deemed guilty of a felony and fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

(Check one only.)

Gwendolyn C. Bennett
(Signature of employee)

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me this

27 day of June, 1940, at

110 King St. Man
William A. Kassar
(Signature)

clerk A. du, 70 Col. Av. N.Y.C.
746
(Title and address of official administering oath)

EX-101 /



PAUL ROBESON



RICHARD WRIGHT



EDNA THOMAS



MAX YERGAN

President of the National Negro Council, Director of the International Commission on African Affairs and lecturer on Negro History at the College of the City of New York.

Associate Members



GWENDOLYN BENNETT

Editor and poet, "Opportunity" Magazine, editor of "The Negro" Magazine, author of "Best of the Negro" and "The Negro Art Center". At present is the



REV. JOHN W. ROBINSON

President of the National Negro Labor Council, author of "The Negro and the Negro Population".



ALAIN LOCKE

Author, educator, Harvard University, A.B. Rhodes scholar from Pennsylvania, Oxford University graduate, student author of "The Negro and His Music" and "Negro Art: Past and Present".

C O P Y

May 28, 1941

I, ARNOLD SCOTT, residing at 1615 Wylie Avenue, Pittsburg, Pa., make the following voluntary statement to Special Field Agent Joseph A. Porcelli, Division of Investigation, Federal Works, WPA, Washington, D. C.

During the fall of 1939, I attended a meeting held by the Communist Party at the North Side Carnegie Library in the evening. I recall that a Miss Gwendolyn Bennett from New York City spoke at this meeting. I can't remember exactly what she said but she said something about all workers uniting and supporting the Communist Party. Agent Porcelli showed me the picture of Gwendolyn Bennett appearing in the program for the play "Big White Fog" and I have identified her as the same person who spoke at the North Side Carnegie Library.

Around election time in 1940, I read in the local Daily Worker that Gwendolyn Bennett spoke again at the North Side Carnegie Library. This was around the beginning of November just before election day. This was also a meeting sponsored by the Communist Party.

I have read the above statement and it is true.

/s/ ARNOLD SCOTT

EXHIBIT 3

C O P Y

CHARLES S. JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

FISK UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

April 17, 1941

Mr. Clayton Hollinger; Chief
N.Y.C. Field Unit,
Div. of Investigation, W.P.A.
80 Eighth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Hollinger:

My attention has been called, on the current trip to New York City, to an act of suspension of the Supervisor of the Harlem Art Center, which I am convinced has a seriousness beyond the important enough fact that a capable worker is removed from a job. Miss Gwendolyn Bennett, the Supervisor, is I am informed, suspended on the charge of being a Communist, and an investigation of a sort is in progress which seems to me too far from the principles and methods which I have always associated with the Works Progress Administration.

I am impelled to address to you this letter because of my complete conviction, based upon an acquaintance of more than fifteen years, that Miss Bennett has no such connections, interests or philosophy. She is an artist and a capable one and has proved herself an able administrator. I came to know her when, as Editor of Opportunity magazine, in 1922-1928, I was seeking out young Negro artists and writers who gave promise of mature development in their fields -- Miss Bennett's record has continued to justify this early confidence.

I am fully in sympathy with the efforts of the W.P.A. to remove subversive agents from its ranks, but this is an instance in which I am convinced an injustice is being done, and an unfortunate impression being made upon all those who are accustomed to expect fair play and freedom from persecution from this important branch of the government.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Charles S. Johnson

EXHIBIT 24

Statement of GWENDOLYN BENNETT, #234566, WPA unit supervisor, (suspended), 2 West 120th Street, New York City, made at the New York Field Office of the Division of Investigation, WPA, on June 4, 1941, to Joseph A. Porcelli, Special Field Agent, WPA Division of Investigation, in the presence of Clayton D. Hollinger, Field Agent in Charge and Robert H. Deiss, Special Field Agent, Division of Investigation, and Morris Engel, 261 Broadway, New York City, attorney for Gwendolyn Bennett.

Mr. Porcelli: You have a constitutional right to refuse to answer any questions which would tend to incriminate yourself, however any questions you may give, will be the truth, do you understand?

A. Yes, I understand.

Q. I show you an affidavit, WPA Form 608, which was signed by you on the 27th of June, 1940, in which you state you are not a Communist, nor a member of any Nazi-Bund organization or an Alien or a member of any organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States. I ask you if that is your signature?

A. Yes. The "C" is a mistake. My name is Gwendolyn Bennett, not Gwendolyn C. Bennett. I asked the person at the time, since there was a mistake on payroll copies, if the C should be put in and Mr. Gottschalk told me until they could correct it, to put the C in.

Q. Where were you born?

A. Giddings, Texas. July 8, 1902.

Q. How long did you remain in Texas?

A. About eight months.

Q. And then you came to New York City?

A. My parents brought me to Washington, D. C. and my early childhood was spent in Harrisburg, Pa and then I came to New York City.

Q. What year did you come to New York City?

A. I imagine about 1915 or 1916.

EXHIBIT 5

Q. You have been on WPA since what year?
A. Since January, 1934. It was C.W.A. then.

Q. Since its inception?
A. Yes.

Q. Briefly, in what capacity?
A. Well, I was originally on the writers project at the Welfare Council as a journalist, then I was transferred to the art project as an artist to take a position as a supervisor. I never worked as an artist, always worked as a supervisor and since December, 1935 I have worked as a supervisor on the art project.

Q. Do you recall the date when you were made a supervisor?
A. Not the specific date. I think June, 1938, however, prior to that I had been acting director.

Q. You remained in that capacity until suspended?
A. Yes.

Q. In chronological order give us your education and employment experience?
A. I was in Lincoln grammar school in Harrisburg, graduated about 1915 or 1916; from there I went to the Harrisburg High School in Harrisburg for two years; then I came to New York and went to Girls High School in Brooklyn and was graduated from there in February, 1921; from there I went to Columbia Teachers College until June, 1922, then to Pratt Institute in September 1922 and was graduated from there in June, 1924. After that I went to Howard University in Washington, and taught there from September 1924 to June, 1925; then I won a scholarship and studied at Academy Julian in Paris, France from September 1925 to June 1926. I then returned to New York, went to Howard University in September 1926 and was there until June 1927 as a teacher. Then I got another scholarship to Barnes Foundation in Marion, Pa., and was there one year, from September 1927 to 1928. I then taught art, english at State Agricultural and Industrial School in Nashville, Tennessee for the summer period and in the Fall, for two consecutive years, 1928 to 1930, I taught in Wade County Schools in Florida,

teaching general subjects. During 1930 for about six months I worked as publicity agent for the W. C. Handy Publishing Company, a music publishing company. I did free lance writing and art work for part of that time and part of the time I worked as a part-time worker with the Y.W.C.A. group for Negroes formed out on Long Island in 1934. In 1934 I was employed by the writers project of the Welfare Council and from the summer of 1935 until May 9, 1941, I was with the art project.

Q. Was this always under the name of Gwendolyn Bennett?

A. No, it was not always under the name of Gwendolyn Bennett.

Q. You have not mentioned the name you were known under?

A. I have always been known by the name of Gwendolyn Bennett and when married I was known by my husband's name, in 1927, who is now deceased. His name was Dr. Alfred Jackson but I always was known under my own name at that time.

Q. After the time you were married, you were known under both names?

A. That is right but I always applied for jobs under my own name.

Q. Until the time you again married?

A. Yes, I have always been known by the name of Gwendolyn Bennett

Q. You are now married?

A. Yes.

Q. State your husband's name?

A. Richard Crosscup. However I am still known under the name of Gwendolyn Bennett, however I was legally married in New York City in 1940, June 25.

Q. Is that your husband's original name?

Objection.

Q. Do you refuse to answer?

A. Yes.

Q. Was your husband's name Richard Beck Crosscup?
 Objection.

A. I refuse to answer. I gave his name before.

Q. Does your husband live in New York City with you?
 A. I refuse to answer upon advice of my attorney.

Mr. Hollinger: Have you at any time used any other name beside Gwendolyn Bennett, Jackson or Crosscup?
 A. No, I have not.

Q. At the time you were director of the Harlem Communist art center, did you know of any Communist activities on that project?
 A. No.

Q. Did any of your employees working under your supervision at that time, make any statement or declaration to indicate in any way they were Communists or did they ever bring to your attention any matters which would indicate that there were Communist influences and activities on the project?
 A. They did not bring it to my attention.

Q. Did you ever attend a National Negro Congress?
 Objection.
 A. I refuse to answer upon advice of counsel.

Q. A Convention?
 Objection
 A. I refuse to answer.

Q. Did you ever lobby for the Young Communist League?
 A. No.

Q. Or any other Communist organizations at any time?
 A. No.

Q. Did you ever submit a report to anyone at any time about Communist activities at any Convention you attended?
 Objection.
 A. I refuse to answer on advice of counsel.

Q. In 1937 or 1938 did you attend the National Negro Congress as a delegate of any organization or an alternate of any organization?

Objection.

A. I refuse to answer on advice of counsel.

Mr. Hollinger: Were you ever in Philadelphia while there was a Congress in session?

Objection.

A. I refuse to answer.

Q. Were you at any time a member of the Communist Party?

A. No.

Q. Are you now connected with any organization?

Objection

A. I refuse to answer.

Q. Were you a member and organizer of the Negro Playwright Company, Inc.?

Objection

A. I refuse to answer upon advice of counsel.

Q. Were you the chairman or chairlady at the launching of this organization?

Objection.

A. I refuse to answer.

Q. Were you connected with any theater group or museum at that time?

Objection.

A. I refuse to answer upon advice of counsel.

Q. Did you ever go to Russia?

A. No.

Q. Were you ever interested in the Russian Negro Film Movement?

A. I refuse to answer.

Mr. Hollinger: Did you ever do any publicity work in New York City?

A. I refuse to answer.

Q. In addition to what you have stated in the record?
A. No, I gave you all my employment.

Q. Did you ever do any publicity work for any
A. Communist organization?
No.

Q. For the Communist Party?
A. No, I have had no connection with the Communist Party whatever.

Q. Were you a sponsor of a dinner given James W. Ford,
A. Communist Party candidate for Vice-President?
I refuse to answer upon advice of counsel.

Q. Were you a close friend of James W. Ford?
A. I refuse to answer.

Q. Did you ever do any work for James W. Ford in
A. connection with his campaigns?
No.

Q. Did you ever take a trip to Pittsburgh in connec-
A. tion with Communist activities, speaking at a
Communist lecture?
No.

Q. Did you ever take a trip to Pittsburgh and meet
A. Communist candidates out there?
No, I have not been to Pittsburgh.

Q. You have never been to Pittsburgh?
A. No, unless when I was a child.

Q. Have you ever been to Philadelphia for the purpose
A. of speaking on behalf of Communism, a Communist
candidate or the Communist cause?
No.

Q. Have you ever spoken in behalf of Communist candi-
A. dates or the Communist cause at any time?
No.

Q. Were you ever a member of any Communist committee
A. together with Richard Wright, an admitted Communist?
Not to my knowledge.

Q.

More specifically, were you ever on a committee to defend Russia, or the Trotsky shootings in Russia?

A.

No.

Q.

Were you ever on a committee to defend the Stalin policies or Russian policies?

A.

No.

Q.

Did you ever foster any movement interested in Russian Communist activities?

A.

No, I think I answered that before.

Q.

Were you in any way connected with organizations that produced many plays that were Communistic in any way?

A.

That is the same question you asked me before. I would say no because anything that I was connected with, where I had anything to do with what was given, it would not have been a Communist play but I might have been connected with something where, within the group, a play was given. I think you are referring to the same question before, when my attorney objected. I did not answer then but there is no secret about it. In August when I was chairman of this meeting or launching of the Negro Playwright Company I had nothing to do with anything except being chairman of that meeting and it was purely a cultural meeting and had nothing to do with Communism.

Q.

Who were your associates?

A.

It was not a case of anyone being an associate.

Q.

Were you associated with Langston Hughes?

A.

Langston Hughes called and asked me to chairman the meeting since I have known him a long time and know he is not a Communist. I asked if it had any political connections and he said no and I chairmanned the meeting. Subsequently they presented a play but I had nothing to do with that. I feel very emphatic about it.

Q.

What was the name of the play?

A.

They produced several plays.

Q.

The one that launched the organization?

A.

It did not launch the organization.

Q. Who were your associates in this organization?
A. I refuse to answer upon advice of counsel.

Q. You said something about no political activities were to be mentioned at the launching where you were to be the Chairman. Were there actually any statements made by the speakers, indicating they were Communists, at this launching?
A. I cannot go over everything anybody said at the time of the meeting. It is all a matter of record. There is only one person you may be asking about, that is Richard Wright whose speech was published. Incidentally I did not come to sponsor Richard Wright or anyone at this meeting. I came to work with writers in a cultural thing. I was not shown anything that was to be said. It happened exactly as I have told you.

Q. You were an associate member of the group producing this play?
A. They may have used my name but not with my consent. I would like to say this. You have to know about the Harlem Community. People's names are used for most anything and I specifically agreed to be chairman because it was the launching of a cultural group.

Mr. Hollinger: Is that the first time you met Richard Wright?
A. I refuse to answer upon advice of counsel.

Q. You say you did not give your consent. Did you object in any way to your name being used?
A. When I found out that my name was used as an associate member.

Q. To whom did you object?
A. I talked to a secretary.

Q.* What secretary?
A. I don't know. I asked for the chairman of the Negro Playwright Company and left word with the Secretary.

Q. How long did this play continue in Harlem?
A. I don't remember.

Q. For your information, the play continued for quite some time after its opening night and during all that period, your name appeared in connection with the production of this play, as an Associate Member of the Negro Playwright Company, Inc. Now, when did you object to your name being used?

A. Immediately after the reviews were in the newspapers. I had no way of knowing they did not remove my name as an associate member and I had nothing to do with any of the plays produced or the people producing them.

Q. Did you say you did not attend the play at any time?

A. No, I did not attend.

Q. In connection with the articles and poems appearing in New Masses and the Daily Worker, what is your explanation?

A. I refuse to answer but I would like to say - I simply say the same thing. When I was asked at 70 Columbus Avenue, I explained that I did not authorize the publishing of anything in the Daily Worker or the New Masses. Poems of mine were read and were in the possession of other people. How it got there I do not know. I cannot tell you when it was published. I simply know it was published.

Q. What did you do about it when you were told?

A. I wrote a letter.

Mr. Hollinger: Did they answer.

A. They telephoned and said that they had gotten them from a copy of proceedings of public meetings. Subsequently I heard that one was published in another magazine and last week I got a copy of a magazine of an Up-State Boys Reformatory with one of my poems.

Q. You are familiar with the rights of poets and writers.

A. Yes.

Q. Are you familiar with the law in connection with any newspaper using your material?

A. Yes.

Q. How familiar?

A. Familiar enough to know that it is a violation of the law but a violation very expensive to prosecute and it is a violation that goes on all the time. Just last week a group of writers in New York talked about the use of material over the radio. In poetry

there is a constant use without the request of the author. Someone who makes his entire living from writing could question that but in my instance, I have never been paid for a poem.

Q. You say you are familiar with the fact that it is a violation of your rights?

A. That is right.

Q. You also said you are not at all in sympathy with Communism?

A. That is right.

Q. Yet you permit the Daily Worker to print your material?

A. I did not permit - I did not give it to them and there was no money to institute suit. That is not the only incident. Right now I have a poem in the Modern Library. I have never been paid a penny for that.

Q. For any articles appearing in the Daily Worker?

A. No.

Q. In any Communist magazine?

A. No.

Q. In what other newspapers have your poems appeared?

A. I refuse to answer upon advice of counsel.

Mr. Hollinger: Have you written under a pen name?

A. No, everything I have written has been under the name of Gwendolyn Bennett.

Q. Have you ever been associated with any organization that is known as a front organization of the Communist Party?

A. I refuse to answer upon advice of counsel.

Q.(Mr. Hollinger:)

A. Have you ever been associated with the Pacific Movement?

I have never heard of it.

Q. Were you friendly with and associated with Richard Wright?

A. No.

Q. With James W. Ford?

A. No.

Q. You did not know them at all?
A. Just from their name and having seen them.

Q. Were you present at a dinner for James W. Ford,
with Earl Browder, Mrs. Browder and Robert Minor?
A. I refuse to answer upon advice of counsel.

Q. Were you in a group at a speakers table with
the persons just mentioned?
A. I refuse to answer.

Q. Did you know William Patterson, Communist candi-
date for Congress, in Chicago?
A. I have never seen him and I don't know him.

Q. Do you know his wife?
A. Not well, I know her.

Q. What is her name?
A. I refuse to answer.

Q. For your information her name is Louise Thompson?
Do you know her?
A. I refuse to answer.

Q. Have you ever taken any part or participated in any
way in picket lines, parades, strikes, rallies or
conventions that were in any way sponsored by the
Communist Party, fostered by Communists or in any
way tied up with Communism or the Communist Party?
A. No.

Q. Have you ever read the Daily Worker?
A. I refuse to answer upon advice of counsel.

Q. Have you ever read the New Masses?
A. I refuse to answer.

Q. Have you ever read any literature put out by the
Communist Party?
A. I don't believe that I have unless I read something
I didn't know about. I might say this: that
through the information center I heard some things
about it; the center was often sent clippings but
I never read any Communist literature.

Q. Are you very much opposed to Communists?
A. Yes, it so happens I believe in the United States
government and Communists are opposed to it.

Q. You are opposed to Communism?
A. I am.

Q. Are you in favor of the Russian form of government?
A. No, I know very little about it.

Q. Did you ever make any statement or declaration about the Communist Party, to anybody, showing you were in sympathy with it?
A. No, Certainly not.

Q. Or that you preferred Communism in preference to the democratic form of government?
A. NO.

Q. Are you in any way in favor of the doctrines of Communism being adopted in this Country?
A. I don't know them well enough. I don't know what all of them are but I have said before I am not in favor of Communists.

Q. Do you know anything about Communism?
A. Just what one reads in the ordinary newspaper and if that is enough, I am not in favor of the doctrines of the Communist Party.

Q. Have you ever asked anyone else to solicit contributions for any Communist cause?
A. I have had nothing to do with it.

Q. Did you ever discuss the Russian-Finnish war with anyone?
A. I refuse to answer upon advice of counsel.

Q. Did you ever discuss the Russo-German pact?
A. I refuse to answer.

Q. Did you ever discuss international affairs to the extent where you favored the Russian Policy in international affairs?
A. I refuse to answer upon advice of counsel.

Q. Do you know Richard Wright to be a Communist?
A. I said I did not know him well at all. He is no associate of mine.

Q. Did he admit he was a Communist at the launching of the Negro Playwright Company, Inc., when you introduced him as a guest speaker?
A. His speech was not on Communism but on his book, Native Son.

Q. Did you know Richard Wright was supporting Communist Party candidates?
A. No. I don't know him personally at all.

Q. Do you know Max Yergan?
A. No. In the community where I live, you know everyone by name. You may even know them to speak to but when I say I do not know them, they are not personal friends of mine and I have no dealings with them whatever.

Q. Did you ever attend any meetings with Max Yergan at which Communism was discussed.
A. No. I have not attended any meetings at which Communism was discussed so I could not have attended meetings with Max Yergan.

Q. Did you ever attend a banquet recently held in honor of Jock Roumain at which there was a discussion about his being exiled from Haiti after being sentenced to three years imprisonment and at that meeting he denounced the imperialist war in Europe as another instance of Nazi-British-French imperialism to revise the world?
A. I refuse to answer upon advice of counsel.

Q. Do you recall that Max Yergan spoke at this meeting?
A. I refuse to answer.

Q. Do you recall that you read poetry at this banquet, dinner or meeting?
A. I refuse to answer.

Q. In connection with your poetry, you wrote a poem on peace?
A. That is right.

Q. I ask you to explain for us what you mean by "the white knuckle clinched against the threat of strife"
A. Well, it is a poetic way of saying we want peace. That is all.

Q. Doesn't it mean much more than it says?
A. Right today, I suppose it would mean defense. That would give us peace. It is actually working for peace, written sometime ago.

- Q. Do you know that the clinched fist is a Communist sign?
- A. That has nothing to do with it. It has nothing to do with any Communist salute. I am not accustomed to using Communist phrases.
- Q. In any of your articles did you ever show praise for the Communist Party?
- A. No.
- Q. For Communism?
- A. No. I have not written poems like that.

Statement by Morris Engel, Attorney:

We have tried to cooperate with the Committee and furnish as much information as possible in an effort to be helpful in this investigation. Those questions which were not answered on advice of counsel, were not answered because the witness was advised that they were a violation of her constitutional right. With respect to a large number of questions, counsel felt that they were remote from the issues, immaterial and irrelevant. This is the only reason why counsel advised the witness to refrain from answering those questions.

—oOo—

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO. **100-56529 MVW**

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, N. Y.	DATE WHEN MADE 3/23/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/28/43; 2/4, 8, 10, 12, 23, 3/9; 14-17/44	REPORT MADE BY JOHN J. MANNING
TITLE GWENDOLYN BENNETT, with aliases: Gwendolyn Bennett Crosscup, Mrs. Alfred Jackson, Gwendolyn Bennett Jackson, Ruth Gale			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject **GWENDOLYN BENNETT**, negress, claims to have been born at Giddings, Texas, 7/8/02, and was raised in Washington, D.C. and Harrisburg, Pa. In 1916 subject came to NYC and has been over intermittent period a resident of that city since. In 1927 BENNETT married Dr. **ALFRED JACKSON**, now deceased. On 6/25/40 she married present husband, **RICHARD B. CROSSCUP**, white man. Subject is connected with the intellectual group of the Communist Party, and is believed to be close friend of **JAMES W. FORD**, colored Communist Party Vice-Presidential candidate, as well as **PAUL ROBESON**, **CANADA LEE**, **EARL BROWDER**, **ROBERT MINOR**, **FERDINAND SMITH** and other Communists. BENNETT is alleged to have been a member of the Communist Party Publicity Committee for NY District in 1936, 1937 and 1938. Her husband, **RICHARD BECK CROSSCUP**, was a Communist in 1935 and may still be one. In June, 1941, WPA authorities suspended subject as Director of WPA Art Center in Harlem and attempted to prosecute her under Section 80, Title 18, USC, because of her Communist affiliations. In December, 1941 subject was reinstated and charges against her were dropped because of insufficient evidence. Informant T-1 states subject and other Communists of the WPA were "whitewashed" at private hearings. Subject has been teacher at the School For Democracy for several years and is instructor at the Jefferson School Of Social Science at the present time. **GWENDOLYN BENNETT** is Director of George Washington Carver School, colored Communist front organization, located 57 W. 125 St., NYC, and is very active in Communist Party matters in NYC.

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180 JAN 25 1981

INTERNAL SECURITY - C

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: *E.E. Conroy* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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<p>100-293468-1</p> <p>CONFIDENTIAL</p> <p>36 MAR 29 1944</p>	<p>RECORDED & INDEXED</p>
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NY 100-56529

DETAILS:

The subject, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, with aliases, is being considered a key figure in the New York Field Division.

Background

GWENDOLYN BENNETT, a negress, claims to have been born in Giddings, Texas on July 8, 1902. A letter received by the New York branch of the Work Projects Administration, Sub-Treasury Building, Pine and Nassau Streets, New York City, from the Health Department at Giddings, Texas, indicates that birth records were not maintained at Giddings until 1903. The subject claims to have moved from Texas eight months after her birth when she went to live in Washington, D. C. After a short time in that city she travelled to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where she spent her youth. In 1916 the subject moved to New York City, and has been a resident of that city for an intermittent period since that time.

In 1927 the subject claims to have married Dr. ALFRED JACKSON, who is now deceased. On June 25, 1940 the subject married RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, a white man, and has lived with him in New York City since that time.

Education

The files of the Work Projects Administration indicate the following information concerning the subject's education and background:

1915 - 1916	Harrisburg High School, Harrisburg, Pa.
1918	Girls' High School, Brooklyn, N. Y.
1921 - 1922	Columbia Teachers College, New York, N. Y.
1922 - 1924	Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y., graduated 1924
September 1924 to June, 1925	Teacher at Howard University
September 1925 to June 1926	Julien Academy, Paris, France
September 1926 to June 1927	Teacher at Howard University
September 1927 to June 1928	Student at Barnes Foundation, Marion, Pa.

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NY 100-56529

1928 - 1930 Teacher at State Agricultural and Industrial School, Nashville, Tennessee; also a teacher in the Wade County Schools, Florida

Employment

The files of the Work Projects Administration indicate the following employment record of the subject:

1930 Publicity agent - W. C. HANDY PUBLISHING COMPANY

1930--1934 Part-time work - Y.W.C.A.

1935 Writers Project

the 1935-June 1941 Art project - Work Projects Administration

The subject is presently employed as Director of the George Washington Carver School and teacher at the Jefferson School Of Social Science.

Residences

In addition to having resided at Giddings, Texas, Washington, D.C., and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in her youth, BENNETT resided for a short time in Paris, France, during 1925 and 1926. Her residences in New York City were as follows:

July 1936 to November 1937 - 321 West 136th St., New York, N. Y.

November 1937 to January 19, 1938 - 250 West 154th St., New York, N. Y.

January 19, 1938 to date - 2 West 120th St., New York, N. Y.

Communist Party Activities and Affiliations

The records of the Work Projects Administration, Division of Investigation, Pine and Nassau Streets, New York City, were examined by the reporting agent and the following information obtained:

On June 19, 1941 the subject was investigated by the Work Projects Administration on the complaint that she had made a false statement in submitting an affidavit, W.P.A. Form 608, stating that she was not a Communist. The file also reflects a letter dated June 3, 1941,

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from CLAYTON D. HOLLINGER to Mr. ROGER J. BOUNDS, Director of Investigation, Work Projects Administration, Washington, D. C., to the effect that Mr. HOLLINGER felt that the facts in the case warranted prosecution of the subject under Section 80, Title 18, United States Code. A summary of the material contained in this file indicates that the W.P.A. investigators were advised by a former member of the Communist Party, whose identity was not disclosed, that the subject, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, had always been connected with the intellectual group of the Communist Party, and was a close friend of JAMES W. FORD, colored Communist Party Vice-Presidential candidate, and that in 1937 or 1938 she was on a committee of well-known Communists, the purpose of which was to defend Trotsky shootings in Russia. BENNETT was also a member of the Communist Party Publicity Committee for New York District in 1936, 1937 and 1938. Her husband, RICHARD CROSSCUP, was a Communist in 1935, and may still be one.

This file reflects that MARTIN ARUNDEL, Work Projects Administration writer, the subject of another W.P.A. case, stated, when shown a picture of the subject, that she was known to him as RUTH GALE and had been in the Communist Party movement for some time. In 1934 and 1935 ARUNDEL stated BENNETT was connected with a Communist Party paper in Harlem, name unknown, and was also identified with a Communist Party Club at that time. This W.P.A. file reflects that the subject was a delegate to the National Negro Congress in Philadelphia in 1937 from the American Artists Guild.

Upon being interviewed Miss AUGUSTA SAVAGE, 16 West 122nd Street, New York City, advised Work Projects Administration investigator MICHAEL SHERRY that GWENDOLYN BENNETT regularly read the DAILY WORKER and that the subject was President of the Harlem Artists Guild during 1937 and 1938. Miss SAVAGE admitted accompanying BENNETT to the National Negro Congress in Philadelphia in 1937 and stated that while there BENNETT was very active and lobbied for the Young Communist League in order that its members would be elected to office in the National Negro Congress. Among the Communists GWENDOLYN BENNETT lobbied for were GLADYS STONER^{and} of the New York City Relief Bureau, Mr. MORAN of the Young Communist League, New York City.

When Miss SAVAGE and Miss BENNETT returned to New York SAVAGE stated to the W.P.A. Investigator that she overheard BENNETT tell ALEX STAVENITZ, former W.P.A. Junior Art Officer, 110 King Street, New York City, that she wished to make an oral report of the proceedings of the National Negro Congress at Philadelphia. She told STAVENITZ that the Young

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NY 100-56529

Communist League attended 150 strong and ran away with the convention. She said the high light of the convention was the arrival at the convention of WILLIAM L. PATTERSON from Moscow, Russia, and that PATTERSON delivered a message from Moscow to the convention which thrilled BENNETT and other delegates. BENNETT told STAVENITZ that objections to Communists attending the convention were squashed by PATTERSON and other Communists present. Miss SAVAGE said she never saw the subject speak to PATTERSON either in Philadelphia or New York City, and that she, SAVAGE, never met him.

At the time of this interview in June, 1941, Miss SAVAGE claimed that the Harlem Artists Guild, with which GWENDOLYN BENNETT was affiliated, and which is now defunct, was not Communistic, but had several Communist sympathizers as members. Miss SAVAGE further advised that meetings of Work Projects Administration supervisors VIRGINIA MANNING, FRIEDA TAYLOR, SAMUEL FREIDMAN, CLEVE BISSELL and ALEX STAVENITZ were held at their respective homes and Communist Party activities were discussed. Those individuals who attended who were not Communist sympathizers were disgusted. The names of the non-Communist persons attending were not recorded.

The records of the Work Projects Administration reflect that ALEX STAVENITZ, Identification No. 2347, resigned because of illness July 1, 1940. VIRGINIA MANNING, Identification No. 234602, resigned October 23, 1939. FRIEDA TAYLOR, Identification No. 263469, resigned, no date given. SAMUEL FRIEDMAN, Identification No. 425981, separated from the service September 3, 1939. CLEVELAND BISSELL, Identification No. 319417, separated from the service August 8, 1939. BURGOYNE DILLER, Identification No. 145446, was suspended April 9, 1941. LINCOLN ROTHSCHILD, Identification Badge 310214, was suspended April 9, 1941. The above mentioned individuals were the active Communists and Communist sympathizers connected with the Art Project which the subject was affiliated with.

This same file reflects that SELMA BURKE, W.P.A. art teacher, residing at 148 East 28th Street, New York City (May, 1941), said that Communist meetings were held in a room adjoining her classroom in the Harlem Community Art Center, and that she often overheard Communist matters being discussed. Subject BENNETT was in charge of this project and was continually going in and out of these meetings while they were in progress. RIVA HELFOND and GWENDOLYN BENNETT tried to put pressure on Miss BURKE to either join the Communist Party or leave the Harlem project.

At a party given in the BURKE'S honor at the home of CHARLES STUDIN, 12 East 10th Street, New York City, BENNETT attended with

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NY 100-56529

a white man named Mr. PEARL, and endeavored to interest the guests in the "Better Russian negro film movement". CHARLES STUDIN, a lawyer, 36 West 44th Street, New York City, was interviewed by W.P.A. Investigator and could not recall the discussion of a better Russian film movement, but he did recall that BENNETT suggested that a party be given for her friend, PAUL ROBESON. The party was never given.

SARAH WEST, former W.P.A. artist, residing at 875 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York City, advised she could not say whether the subject was a Communist or not, but she did know that the subject was a Communist sympathizer, and that the Harlem Art Center was over-run with Communists and Communist Party activities. She further stated that BENNETT was definitely partial to all Communist Party members.

The Work Projects Administration file further reflects that the subject was chairman and sponsor of the Negro Playwrights Company, Inc., which produced the Communist play BIG WHITE FOG at the Lincoln Theatre in Harlem in 1940. The subject was very friendly with RICHARD WRIGHT and PAUL ROBESON. The file also reflects that BENNETT campaigned in Pittsburgh for JAMES FORD, colored Vice-Presidential candidate, during the election of 1940.

DAVID W. WRIGHT of 250 West 154th Street, New York City, and ALEXANDER BROWN, 321 West 136th Street, New York City, were interviewed by W.P.A. investigators regarding Communist activities of the subject, with negative results.

EDWARD WILCOX, colored, 40 Morningside Avenue, New York City, stated that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was reputed to be a Communist.

FRANKIE DUTY, colored, 237 West 115th Street, New York City, a member of the Communist Party Harlem section from March 10, 1936 to October, 1938, when he resigned, stated that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was reputed to be a Communist.

CHARLES WHITE, W.P.A. Recreation Leader, 34 West 118th Street, New York City, former member of the Communist Party, from 1929 to 1936, and member of the Central Committee of the Young Communist League, testified before the Woodrum Committee that the subject, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, attended a dinner given in honor of FORD, Communist Vice-Presidential candidate, at which BENNETT was seated next to EARL BROWDER and ROBERT MINOR. WHITE also stated that GLADYS STONER for whom GWENDOLYN BENNETT lobbied at the National Negro Congress, has been a high-ranking Communist Party member since 1935.

WILLIAM CHASE, colored, W.P.A. Art Director, no residence

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NY 100-56529

given, who is affiliated with the NEW YORK AMSTERDAM STAR NEWS, said he believed GWENDOLYN BENNETT was one of a group of negroes who went to Russia in 1931 or 1932 to make negro film. He was unable to state definitely whether BENNETT was a Communist.

DAN BURLEY, colored sports editor and theatrical editor of the NEW YORK AMSTERDAM STAR NEWS, said GWENDOLYN BENNETT was a Communist Party sympathizer and that the play BIG WHITE FOG with which she was affiliated was definitely Communistic.

EARL BROWN, colored news correspondent residing at 745 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York City, said that GWENDOLYN BENNETT is accepted in Harlem, associated with and sympathetic with activities which have been considered Communistic.

FLOYD SNELSON, colored, "New York Age" employee, who has known BENNETT for ten years, stated she has a reputation of being a Communist in Harlem. SNELSON advised that he had attended one meeting of the Communist Party but that his dues of 50¢ had been returned to him and had been dropped as a member.

IDA M. DUDLEY, colored bookkeeper at the NEW YORK AGE, 230 West 135th Street, New York City, said that she had known BENNETT for years and that she is regarded as a Communist.

LUDLOW WERNER, colored Managing Editor at the NEW YORK AGE, 230 West 135th Street, New York City, stated he heard rumors to the effect that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was a Communist and had been removed as a teacher at Howard University because of some scandal in which she became involved.

The above-mentioned file reflects that a former member of the Communist Party advised W.P.A. investigators that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was a member of the Communist Party Publicity Committee for New York District in 1936, 1937 and part of 1938.

WILLIANN BURROUGHS, Communist teacher who was expelled from the public school system in New York, is a friend of the subject. BURROUGHS was a candidate for Lieutenant Governor on the Communist Party ticket, as well as Comptroller of the City of New York on the Communist Party ticket.

BENNETT is also a close friend of KYLE CRICHTON, writer

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

for COLLIER'S Magazine, known to be a Communist, who writes for the Party under the pen name of ROBERT FORSYTH.

RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, the subject's husband, was a member of the Communist Party in 1935, and is very friendly with CYRIL BRIGGS, a staff member of the DAILY WORKER. A former Communist Party member advised W.P.A. agents that CROSSCUP has been seen in the Communist Party offices on 13th Street and at the Workers Book Shop as recently as 1938. CROSSCUP is a personal friend of ROBERT B. MOORE, Communist Party field organizer.

The W.P.A. file reflects the following investigation was conducted by the Pittsburgh Branch of the Work Projects Administration:

ARNOLD SCOTT, colored, 1615 Wylie Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, identified a picture of the subject as the person who spoke at a meeting of the Communist Party during the fall of 1939. This meeting was held at the Northside Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh. SCOTT said that he read in the local DAILY WORKER that BENNETT again spoke at a Communist Party meeting at the Northside Carnegie Library in November, 1940.

VICTOR FREDIANI, President of the FREDIANI PRINTING COMPANY, 71 Elm Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, stated that during the election of 1940 he printed 15,000 four-page leaflets for the Communist Party, which referred to a meeting at the Northside Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh on behalf of JAMES W. FORD, colored Communist. FREDIANI also printed a DAILY WORKER western Pennsylvania edition for the Communist Party, with the permission of the DAILY WORKER of New York. This was in 1940. FREDIANI was unable to furnish any literature regarding this meeting, or the Worker Edition that he published.

The following investigation was conducted by the Work Projects Administration office of the Boston, Massachusetts area:

Examination of the files of the Massachusetts State Department of Safety and the Boston City Police Department as of May 28, 1941 failed to reveal any information concerning the activities of RICHARD B. CROSSCUP or GWENDOLYN BENNETT. The FBI records in the Boston Field Office were also checked with negative results.

Information was revealed which alleged that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was affiliated with a Communist organization in Boston known as the Greater Pacific Movement.

- 8 -

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NY 100-56529

On April 26, 1941 subject GWENDOLYN BENNETT was requested to appear before the New York Work Projects Administration for questioning regarding her Communist Party affiliations. She advised the W.P.A. at that time that she would only appear under the following circumstances:

1. If she was given a copy of the charges made against her.
2. That all accusers be made to make their accusations in person.
3. That investigations of the case be confined to circumstances connected with the charges.
4. That she receive a transcript of the proceedings of the interviews relative to the case.

Her demands were denied but she was advised that she would be permitted to have her attorney present during the interview. On June 4, 1941 the subject appeared with her attorney, MORRIS ENGEL, at the New York Office of the Work Projects Administration. Upon being questioned the subject denied she was ever a member of the Communist Party and that she had ever lobbied for the Young Communist League or any other Communist organization. She denied that she did publicity work for the Communist Party, or any Communist organization. She denied she was ever in Pittsburgh or had ever spoken on behalf of a Communist candidate or for a Communist Party cause. She denied ever having been connected with any committee for the purpose of defending Russia or the Trotsky shootings in Russia. She denied that she ever wrote under a pen name or that she ever read Communist literature. She denied she was friendly with RICHARD WRIGHT or JAMES W. FORD, negro Communist. She refused to answer when asked if she was present at a dinner given for FORD and sat at the speakers' table with EARL BROWDER and ROBERT MINOR. She refused to answer when questions regarding her presence at the National Negro Congress Convention in Philadelphia were directed to her, or whether she had submitted a report regarding Communist Party activities at the Convention. BENNETT also refused to answer any questions as to her interest in the Russian negro film movement. She refused to answer the question as to whether she read the DAILY WORKER. The subject refused to say whether she was present at a banquet in honor of JACQUES ROUMAIN HATIAN, an exile. She declared the National Negro Playwrights Company, Inc. used her name without permission. She also claimed her poems appeared in the DAILY WORKER without her consent. She stated she never saw WILLIAM PATTERSON, Communist Party candidate for Congress, but knew his wife. When asked if she knew LOUISE THOMPSON, wife of WILLIAM

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NY 100-56529

* PATTERSON, she refused to say whether she knew her. The subject refused to answer the question "RICHARD CROSSCUP - is that your husband's original name?" She refused to answer the question "Was your husband's name RICHARD BECK CROSSCUP?" She refused to answer the question "Does your husband live in New York City with you?" She claimed to have never used any name but GWENDOLYN BENNETT, JACKSON, or CROSSCUP. She claimed to have never been in Russia at any time.

JOHN F. MC INTYRE, in charge of the Division of Investigation, Work Projects Administration, advised the reporting agent that Investigator JOHN A. BRANN handled the case of GWENDOLYN BENNETT and was in a better position to furnish additional information regarding her. Mr. BRANN was not available at that time and will be contacted by the reporting agent at a later date.

The files of the W.P.A. reflect that on December 13, 1941 MALCOLM J. MILLER, Assistant Commissioner, Work Projects Administration, wrote to IRVING V. A. HUIE, W.P.A. Administrator, New York City, clearing the subject's records of charges of Communism on the grounds of insufficient evidence, and making her eligible for reinstatement and further employment on W.P.A. projects.

Confidential Informant T-1 advised the reporting agent that in 1941 someone by the name of JOHNSON or JACOBSON came to New York City from Washington, D. C., and conducted private hearings behind closed doors on cases, such as the subjects. As a result of these hearings, all Communist Party members were "whitewashed".

The records of Special Squad No. 1, New York City Police Department, 400 Broome Street, New York City, reflected that GWENDOLYN BENNETT is a teacher of "Life and culture of the negro people" and "Art and the People" at the School For Democracy, 13 Astor Place, New York City. This was on January 26, 1942. She was also Director of the Harlem Community Art Center, 125th Street and Lenox Avenue, New York City. In July and August, 1943, the subject taught the summer school session of the School For Democracy. Her course was painting and drawing for amateurs.

The file further reflects that the subject is presently teaching Art, History and Appreciation at the Thomas Jefferson School of Social Science. The file reflects a newspaper clipping from the NEW YORK AGE dated January 10, 1942 in which GWENDOLYN BENNETT was cleared of charges of subversive activity and reinstated on the Work Projects Administration. At the hearing Miss BENNETT was represented by MICHAEL BRAUN, Attorney for the Joint Committee To Defend W.P.A. Workers..

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The records of the Bureau of Criminal Identification, 9th floor, 400 Broome Street, New York City, were also checked but failed to reveal any information not previously reported.

Lieutenant LOUIS REIGER, 6th Detective District, 229 West 123rd Street, New York City, advised the writer that the subject is believed to be a Communist and is married to one of his air raid wardens, RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, a teacher in his air raid warden school. Lieutenant REIGER was unable to furnish any additional information concerning the subject other than the fact that she was Director of the George Washington Carver School.

The Selective Service record of the subject's husband, RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, was checked at the Selective Service Board No. 55, 307 Lenox Avenue, New York City. CROSSCUP'S serial number is 3246 and his order number is 2389. He was born in Boston, Massachusetts, July 24, 1905, and is presently employed by the Walden School, 1 West 88th Street, New York City. He and his wife, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, operate a summer camp at Port Murray, New Jersey, which is known as Camp Wo-Chi-Ca. CROSSCUP and his wife reside at 2 West 120th Street, New York City. In 1929 CROSSCUP left the country and was issued Passport No. 84756. His destination was not revealed. He has been placed in Class 1A1 as of July 24, 1943 because of his age.

The Selective Service file reflects a letter from RICHARD B. CROSSCUP to the Board dated April 20, 1942, in which he claims that his mother, LILLIAN A. CROSSCUP, age-70 years, was living with him at that time. He also states that his wife, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was employed at \$125. a month as a teacher in the School For Democracy, 13 Astor Place, New York City. CROSSCUP is Assistant Deputy Zone Warden, Precinct 28, Zone 1, New York City. He claims to have been a teacher since 1933. He lists relatives as follows:

Mother, LILLIAN A. CROSSCUP, 1085 Boylston St., Boston, Mass.

Brother, LINCOLN B. CROSSCUP, 28 La Vegas Road, Orinda, Calif.

Sister, LILLIAN L. CROSSCUP, no address

Daughter, MARTHA CROSSCUP, Plympton, Mass.

MARTHA CROSSCUP is a child by a previous marriage, and according to the file, CROSSCUP is responsible for her support by divorce decree No. 16944, Probate Court, Massachusetts. CROSSCUP also lists an additional daughter, JOACHIM, who was adopted by JAMES PLEUFER of Plympton, Massachusetts.

Confidential Informant , whose identity is known

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NY 100-56529

to the Bureau, was contacted regarding the subject and RICHARD B. CROSSCUP. He stated that he believed that both of them were active in Communist circles but that he would obtain additional information concerning their present Communist Party affiliations.

~~Confidential Informant~~ [redacted] whose identity is also known to the Bureau, advised the writer that he had known the subject for some time and that he believed her to be a member of the Communist Party. He expected to have close contacts with the subject some time in the future and hoped to be able to provide this office with additional information concerning her.

A review of the file of the DAILY WORKER indicates numerous references to the subject, all of which have been covered in this report.

Confidential Informant T-2 advised the writer that the subject was on very good terms with a Communist Party member, DAVE GOLDWAY, and has often discussed the problems of the George Washington Carver School with him. The subject complained to GOLDWAY that no organized groups were attending the school, and stated that courses were being given at the School which included the Soviet-American Friendship situation in order to stimulate interest in that subject. She also appealed to GOLDWAY to interest BENJAMIN DAVIS, colored Communist Councilman, in the school, and advised GOLDWAY that DAVIS had promised to give his attention to the school after the elections. The subject also advised GOLDWAY that she had received a wonderful letter from an individual known as JAMES HEARN, which was his answer in response to a letter requesting \$100., sent out to all the Board members of the George Washington Carver School. HEARN explained and gave a very good reason why he could not respond with a \$100. donation to the school.

A review of the files of this office indicates a newspaper article published in the New York WORLD TELEGRAM of November 16, 1943, which revealed the George Washington Carver School as a "Red negro ruse". A summary of the information in the article is as follows:

A new people's institution named the George Washington Carver School has been organized in Harlem with strong Communist backing in a propaganda bid for interest among negroes. One of its directors and chief backers is BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR., Communist functionary, whose election to City Council the WORLD TELEGRAM disclosed the week previous to instant article followed the Communist strategy of exploiting national, racial and religious feelings. At the opening of the institute, which is located at 57 West 125th Street, the DAILY WORKER, Communist Party organ, hailed the event as a major happening in Harlem. The head of the school, Dr. MAX YERGAN, is one of the country's foremost negro leaders of Communist causes, and is president of the National Negro Congress. GWENDOLYN BENNETT, who recently resigned from

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teaching at the School For Democracy, has been appointed Director of the new school. According to the article, the school is recognized by the thinking people of Harlem as a Communist attempt to exploit CARVER.

The files of this office further reflect that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was a teacher of a course given at the School For Democracy, 13 Astor Place, New York City, in the winter term, January to March, 1943, entitled "Life and Culture of the Negro People". The subject is also listed in the files of the New York Office as being a teacher at the summer School For Democracy at Arcadia, Fishkill, New York. This organization is conducted by the School For Democracy, 13 Astor Place, New York City.

The files reflect that the subject spoke at a cultural group meeting at the Edison Hall, 228 West 47th Street, New York City, on Sunday, December 4, 1943. The subject of this course was "Contributions Of The Negro To American Art And Culture". Dr. YERGAN served as chairman. The file also reflects an article taken from the PEOPLE'S VOICE of November 27, 1943, concerning the George Washington Carver School, in which GWENDOLYN BENNETT, Director of the Carver School, stated "This is an educational institution which we are building to meet the needs of the people of Harlem. A carefully chosen curriculum committee from the Board of Directors will organize the educational program, changing and modifying the courses offered as our experience with the community dictates the need for change. The courses to be offered will be planned in keeping with the best educational principles at all times".

A catalogue of the Jefferson School of Social Science, winter term 1944, reflects the following information regarding the subject:

B.S. in Fine Arts, Columbia University, New York City.

Fellowships at Academie Julien, Paris, France

Barnes Foundation, Merion, Pennsylvania.

Taught Art at Howard University

Former Director of Harlem Community Art Center

Director of George Washington Carver School

The original directors of the George Washington Carver School are as follows:

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NY 100-56529

LEONARD COVELLO, HENRY K. CRAFT, THELMA DALE, BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR., Judge
HUBERT T. DELANEY, ERNEST L. DIMITRY, Dr. ARNOLD B. DONAWA, ALTA DOUGLAS,
THYRA EDWARDS, ALICE KELIHER, CANADA LEE, EDWARD S. LEWIS, Dean E. GEORGE
PAYNE, Reverend ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR., MELVA L. PRICE, PAUL ROBESON,
FERDINAND C. SMITH, DOROTHY STEELE, HOPE R. STEVENS, CONSUELA LEE TAPIA,
Reverend CHARLES YOUNG TRIGG, HARCOURT TYNES, JAMES WATERMAN WISE, and
Dr. MAX YERGAN.

On March 10, 1944 a mail cover was placed on the subject
and RICHARD B. CROSSCUP at their residence, 2 West 120th Street, New York City.
As yet no information has been received through this source.

A copy of the subject's picture was obtained during the
course of the investigation, and will be made a part of the 1A file of instant
case.

The following description of GWENDOLYN BENNETT was
obtained during the course of investigation:

Date and place of birth:	Giddings, Texas, July 8, 1902
Age:	42 years
Race:	Negress
Complexion:	Medium brown
Height:	5'
Weight:	185 lbs.
Build:	Heavy
Color of hair:	Black, cut short
Color of eyes:	Brown
Shape of face:	Round
Teeth:	White and even
Occupation:	Artist, teacher, Director of George Washington Carver School
Marital status:	Married
Remarks:	Occasionally wears rimless glasse has pleasant disposition, and always appears smiling and good humoured.

P E N D I N G

- 14 -

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEWARK FIELD DIVISION

At Port Murray, N. J.

Will attempt to ascertain whether Camp Wo-Chi-Ca at Port Murray is a Communist Camp and will report any present activities on the part of the subject or her husband, RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, in that area.

BOSTON FIELD DIVISION

At Boston, Mass.

Will report any pertinent information concerning the subject's husband, RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, which may be contained in divorce decree 16944, Probate Court, Massachusetts.

Will, if possible, interview the former wife of CROSSCUP for any information concerning CROSSCUP or BENNETT.

Will obtain any information as to CROSSCUP'S affiliations at Boston University, where he received an M.A. Degree in 1940.

Will report all information contained in the files of the Boston Office regarding BENNETT or her husband.

At Cambridge, Mass.

Will obtain any information as to CROSSCUP'S Communist affiliations at Harvard University, where he was graduated with an A.B. Degree in 1927.

Will contact the proper authorities at Cambridge School for any information concerning RICHARD CROSSCUP, who is believed to have been a teacher at that school for about eight years.

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

At New York, N. Y.

Will contact JOHN A. BRANN, Work Projects Administration Investigator, Sub-Treasury Building, third floor, Pine and Nassau Streets, who handled the investigation of the subject, and obtain any additional information concerning her Communist activities.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

Will recontact confidential informants of the New York Office in an attempt to ascertain the present activities of the subject and her husband.

Will continue additional investigation in the New York area concerning the subject's Communist Party affiliations and activities.

Will report the results of the mail cover placed on the subject and her husband at their residence, 2 West 120th Street, New York City.

- 16 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

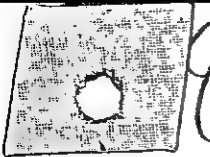
CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants referred to in the report of Special Agent John J. Manning dated at New York, N. Y. March 23, 1944 are identified as follows:

- T-1 JOHN F. MC INTYRE, in charge of the Division of Investigation, Work Projects Administration, Sub-Treasury Building, Pine and Nassau Streets, New York, N. Y.
- T-2 ~~X~~ Confidential Informant, whose identity is known to the Bureau.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



Can

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 18 1944

TELETYPE

- Mr. Tolson.....
- Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
- Mr. Clegg.....
- Mr. Coffey.....
- Mr. Glavin.....
- Mr. Ladd.....
- Mr. Nichols.....
- Mr. Rosen.....
- Mr. Tracy.....
- Mr. Mohr.....
- Mr. Carson.....
- Mr. Hendon.....
- Mr. Mumford.....
- Mr. Jones.....
- Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
- Mr. Nease.....
- Mr. Gandy.....

K.O.

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

WASHINGTON FROM NEW YORK 21 18 805 PM

DIRECTOR.... ROUTINE

~~Classification: 1042/DRM~~
~~Declassify on: OADR~~
~~12/16/92~~

Buckley
Black
McCartee

HARE. GWENDOLYN BENNETT. IS - C. ☒ CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

[REDACTED]

ADVISED TODAY THAT GWENDOLYN BENNETT, DIRECTOR OF THE
 GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL, TOLD DAVID GOLDWAY, NY STATE
 EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, THAT SHE IS GOING TO
 WASHINGTON, D.C., TO TRY TO SEE VICE PRES. WALLACE AND SEC. ICKES, BUT
 DOES NOT KNOW IF SHE WILL GET TO SEE THEM. SHE TOLD HIM SHE SENT A TEL-
 EGRAM TO WALLACE YESTERDAY AND IS EXPECTING A REPLY. SHE STATED
 THAT SHE WOULD SEE RUTH BENEDICT WHILE IN WASHINGTON, AND WOULD STAY WITH
 BETTY WHITE-S MOTHER WHILE THERE, TO SAVE EXPENSES. THE PURPOSE
 OF BENNETTS ATTEMPT TO SEE WALLACE AND ICKES IS NOT KNOWN, BUT ANY
 FURTHER INFORMATION IN CONNECTION WITH THIS MATTER WILL BE
 FURNISHED TO THE BUREAU. *(e)*

CONROY

RECORDED
&
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100-293468-2

APR 21 1944

HOLDM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

W.C.

CC

CC

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DATE 12/15/92 BY 1048/DK

ENCLOSURE



100-293468-3

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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__1__ Enclosures for __Bureau__ Office

Re: NEW YORK FILE NO. 100-56529

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DATE 12/15/92 BY 1048/DK/gjt



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, New York

JJM:HGF
100-56529

April 21, 1944

Director, FBI

Re: ^QGWENDOLYN BENNETT
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

md
122
A photograph of the above captioned subject, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, obtained by this office, is being forwarded to the Bureau as an enclosure. The picture in question is for inclusion in the subject's case file at the Bureau.

Additional copies of the photograph are being retained in the proper case file in this office.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy
E. E. CONROY
SAC

Enc.

attached
ENCL 1

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12-29-92 BY 1048 *DKM/ght*



62 MAY 2 1944

RECORDED

EX-16

100-293468-3
F B I

22 APR 24 1944

REB

HR:ZMN

NOT RECORDED

CONFIDENTIAL

May 5, 1944

100-293468

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

RE: SECURITY MATTER

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that a security index card has been prepared at the Bureau, captioned as follows:

BENNETT, GWENDOLYN
with aliases

NATIVE BORN

COMMUNIST

Mrs. Gwendolyn Bennett Crosscup
Mrs. Gwendolyn Bennett Jackson
Mrs. Albert Jackson
Ruth Gale

2 West 120th St.,
New York, New York (Res.)

George Washington Carver School
57 W. 125th St.,
New York, New York (Bus.)

DECLASSIFIED BY 1042 DKN/TH
ON 12/15/92

The above caption should be checked immediately for accuracy against the information contained in your files, and the Bureau should be informed of any discrepancies. You will prepare without delay a 5" x 8" white card captioned as above and reflecting your investigative case file number for filing in your Confidential Security Index Card File. In the event the above caption is not correct, the card you prepare should be correctly captioned, and the Bureau should be informed of the correct caption.

The caption of the card prepared and filed in your Office must be kept current at all times and the Bureau immediately advised of any changes made therein in that connection.

MAILED 1

MAY 4 - 1944 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

FILE NO. **100-27217** EMM

REPORT MADE AT NEWARK	DATE WHEN MADE 5-11-44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4-14-44	REPORT MADE BY ELMER A. MADSON, JR.
TITLE GWENDOLYN ^DBENNETT, WAS.			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Investigation at Port Murray reveals subject known only by name, with no knowledge of subject's husband, **RICHARD B. CROSSCUP**. Subject not known to be manager of Camp Wo-Chi-Ca. Camp Wo-Chi-Ca described as a Communist camp. Confidential Informant T-1 advises "DAILY WORKER" addressed to Camp Wo-Chi-Ca during summer periods. Caretaker on the premises believed to be **ANNA HILL**, who receives payment by money order with the remitter as Camp Wo-Chi-Ca. Information determined from State Police to the effect that Camp Wo-Chi-Ca located in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County, mail address R.D. 1, Port Murray, New Jersey.

- R U C -

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED**

DATE 12/15/92 BY 1048/DKM/gt

REFERENCE:

Report of SA JOHN J. MANNING dated 3-23-44 at New York, New York.

DETAILS:

Information determined from Confidential Informant T-1 was to the effect that Camp Wo-Chi-Ca is located at R.F.D. 1, Port Murray, New Jersey. Confidential Informant T-1 advised that he was not familiar with the subject of instant case, except that he did recall mail having come addressed to a party by the name of **BENNETT**. As far as he could ascertain and recall, the name of **RICHARD B. CROSSCUP** was unfamiliar.

APPROVED AND
FORWARDED:

(SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE)

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

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90 JAN 25 1961

- 5 - Bureau
- 3 - New York
- 1 - Capt. W.B. Howe, DIO, 3ND (CONFIDENTIAL)
- 1 - Col. S.V. Constant, DSI, 2SC (CONFIDENTIAL)
- 1 - Boston (info)
- 2 - Newark

COPIES IN FILE

100-273428-4

25 MAY 16 1944

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INDEXED**

T-1 advised that this camp opens approximately around June 1 of each year and that its activities cease about Labor Day. He further advised that a caretaker was maintained on the premises yearly and that her name was ANNA HILL, and that she had come from New York, address unknown, a short time ago and was paid by money orders with the remitter as Camp Wo-Chi-Ca. As far as was known by T-1, Mr. MATT HALL of 80 East 11th Street, New York City, was the organizer and operator of Camp Wo-Chi-Ca.

Confidential Informant T-1 advised that he had heard very little about Camp Wo-Chi-Ca, inasmuch as it was located approximately ten miles from Port Murray, and that the shopping centers of Washington, New Jersey and Hackettstown, New Jersey would obviate the necessity of having the people use Port Murray as a business town. He did recall one incident, however, in which a truck driver whose name he did not know stopped at the Port Murray Post Office and asked him what kind of camp it was. When the truck driver was asked the reason for this, he stated he had a desire to place his son in a summer camp, and that upon investigation of Camp Wo-Chi-Ca, he found that it was "a damn Communist camp."

The New Jersey State Police Sub-station located at Washington, New Jersey was contacted by the reporting agent for information relative to Camp Wo-Chi-Ca. They advised that under date of October 2, 1941, an investigation had been conducted by them concerning the camp. The following is substantially the information obtained by their investigation.

Camp Wo-Chi-Ca is also known as Pleasant Grove Acres and is situated on the Califon-Pleasant Grove Road in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County, R.D. 1, Port Murray, New Jersey. A contact with farmers living in and near the camp determined that Camp Wo-Chi-Ca was a Communist camp from New York City and consists of people of all races and creeds. At the present time the camp was closed for the winter season, and Mr. and Mrs. VENIO HILL of New York City were living there as caretakers. In this connection, it is noted that the name of the Party given by T-1 was Mrs. ANNA HILL of New York City.

The name of MAC WEISMAN arose in connection with the camp as manager. It was learned that MAC WEISMAN had left a forwarding address care of ABE TAUBER, 55 West 95th Street, New York City. Information was obtained from Tax Collector of Lebanon Township to the effect that taxes on the camp were paid by a Mr. MATT HALL of 80 East 11th Street, New York City.

The following men are listed as camp directors:

Executive Director	MATT HALL, 80 East 11th Street New York City.
Camp Director	ABE TAUBER, 55 West 95th Street New York City

NK 100-27217

Educational Director

~~MAC~~ WEISMAN, care of ABE TAUBER
previously mentioned.

Two other individuals connected with the camp by the name of BUTCH ~~LASKY~~ and OSCAR ~~ALBERT~~ were mentioned in the investigation, but addresses were not obtained. Nowhere in connection with the investigation of the camp did the name of the subject or RICHARD B. CROSSCUP arise. They are not known in the vicinity.

Inasmuch as Camp Wo-Chi-Ca is not being operated at the present time and inasmuch as no further background information is available concerning the subject and persons mentioned in this report, this case is being considered referred upon completion to the office of origin. In the event it is desired that a further check be made at a later date during the time of operation of Camp Wo-Chi-Ca, the Newark Field Division will conduct such investigation upon receipt of information from the New York Field Division.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

NK 100-27217

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

Confidential Informant T-1 is Postmaster V. B. ZELLERS of the Port Murray, New Jersey Post Office.

A copy of this report is being designated for the Boston Field Division for their information in conducting investigation within that territory.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK

FILE NO. 100-14816 md

REPORT MADE AT BOSTON, MASS.	DATE WHEN MADE 5/30/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/8, 9, 12, 20/44	REPORT MADE BY DANIEL J. GRIFFIN
TITLE GWENDOLYN BENNETT with aliases. Gwendolyn Bennett Crosscup, Mrs. Alfred Jackson, Gwendolyn Bennett Jackson, Ruth Gale			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Richard Beck Crosscup was married June 16, 1930 and granted a divorce decree May 29, 1936 charged with cruel and abusive treatment. Two children were born to the marriage. Crosscup's wife is remarried to James Pfeiffer. Crosscup was born July 24, 1905 at Dorchester, Massachusetts, graduated from Harvard University cum laude in 1927 receiving an AB degree and Boston University School of Education, Summer sessions, 1940 cum laude. In 1931 he worked as a janitor for the church and bank receiving \$40 per month until hired by Dean Donald Durrell of Boston University to work for him personally on research work and writing at \$60 per month. Dean Durrell secured a tutoring job for Crosscup, paying him \$90 per month. In 1934 Durrell secured a position for Crosscup with Dr. John French, founder and present headmaster of the Cambridge Upper School at Weston, Massachusetts, in charge of the remedial program. Crosscup was active in the Trade Union Movement as a member of a teachers' union and served as a delegate to the Boston Central Labor Union, State Federation of Labor Convention. Crosscup is described as very independent, has his own opinion of things and will express them regardless of to whom he may be talking, has his own philosophy on life to the extent of sharing his wife and marrying a colored woman. Informants have no knowledge that he was connected with the Communist Party this area. All the ideas he had on life were his own based on information received. It was deemed impractical to interview Crosscup's former wife. No information concerning subject in Boston

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Calouy</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 100-293468-5 19 JUN 1 1944
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 2 New York 1 Capt. W. B. Howe, DIO 3ND 1 Colonel S. V. Constant D of I 2SC 3 Boston		RECORDED & INDEXED 116 EX-16

55 OCT 7 1944

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent John J. Manning dated New York, March 23, 1944

DETAILS: The subject Gwendolyn Bennett with aliases is being considered a key figure in the New York Field Division.

The writer checked the records of the Massachusetts Probate Court, Pemberton Square, Boston, Massachusetts, and reviewed the divorce decree #16944, involving Alice Reed Champion Crosscup and Richard Beck Crosscup. According to the record, the couple was married June 16, 1930 and Mrs. Crosscup filed for a divorce against Richard B. Crosscup for cruel and abusive treatment March 16, 1936. The final decree was granted May 29, 1936. The divorce was uncontested by the husband Richard Crosscup. They list the following children - Martha born [redacted] and Joachim Crosscup born [redacted]. The attorney for the libellant was Richard Ballian, 294 Washington Street, Boston.

The writer reviewed the subject's record at the registrar's office at Harvard University, Cambridge, and ascertained that he was born July 24, 1905 at Dorchester, Massachusetts, his father's name being Louis Edwin Crosscup and his mother's name being Lillian Campbell Crosscup. He graduated from Quincy High School and Thayer Academy where he completed four years undergraduate literary work. He graduated from Harvard College in 1927 magna cum laude.

A review of the Professors and advisers was made by the writer and upon inquiry of Miss Rosalie S. Magruder was advised that his adviser is deceased and there is no one presently teaching at the college who would know the subject.

She referred the writer to the Decennial Report for 1937 which would be the subject's own account of his activity for ten years following his graduation from Harvard. The report was reviewed by the writer and it was found that the subject had the following to say:

Occupation - teacher, Cambridge School, Kendall Green, Massachusetts
Married - June 1930, divorced
Children - Martha, born [redacted]

The report continues: "During the fall and winter of 1930 I dug clams for a living in Maine. In the spring and summer of 1931 I did statistical work for an investment counselor and was also engaged in tutoring. I took a partnership in a school but the school failed. In the fall of 1931 and also of 1934 I worked as janitor of a church and of a bank. Since 1934, I have been in charge of the remedial program of the Cambridge School, Kendall Green, Massachusetts. I received my training at Boston University School of Education. I am presently active in a local trade union movement as a member of a teachers'

union. I served as delegate to the Boston Central Labor Union, State Federation of Labor and I am on the editorial staff of the American Teacher, the official magazine of the American Federation of Teachers.

The writer reviewed the subject's file at Boston University School of Education and ascertained that the subject first entered Boston University in 1933, and attended the summer classes off and on and finally graduated August 10, 1940, receiving an M. E. degree cum laude. His adviser was Dr. Donald Durrell who is now dean of the School of Education.

The writer interviewed Dean Donald Durrell who advised that he was very well acquainted with the subject. Dr. Durrell stated that he met the subject for the first time when he filed an application for entrance to the school of education. Dr. Durrell stated that he had the necessary qualifications to enter the school but was lacking in funds. According to Dr. Durrell, Crosscup was very careless about his dress and at the first meeting with Dr. Durrell, Crosscup was badly in need of a haircut, had a soiled shirt, no tie and made a very poor impression. At that time Crosscup was working as janitor in a church and a bank receiving \$40 a month. Durrell stated that he talked to Crosscup and told him he had the ability to write for magazines but Crosscup was not interested. Dr. Durrell advised the writer that in viewing his record he knew the subject was clever and therefore hired him personally to do work for him and write articles. Dr. Durrell paid Crosscup \$60 per month.

During his employment Dr. Durrell secured a tutoring job for the subject, paying him \$90 per month. As explained by Dr. Durrell Crosscup was up in the big money now, something that he was not interested in and so Crosscup hired another student to prepare his tutoring work for him, paying him for his work. Dr. Durrell stated that Crosscup wrote many fine articles which Dr. Durrell later sold for a considerable sum.

Dr. Durrell was responsible for securing a position with Dr. French, founder and present headmaster of the Cambridge Upper School, Weston, Massachusetts, for Crosscup.

Dr. Durrell stated that Crosscup was very polite and a likable chap but had a very odd way of looking at life. For example, his first wife came from a very low type family and the subject feeling sorry for the girl married her, and at the same time he himself not being in a position to support two people. His first wife Alice was artistically inclined and becoming dissatisfied after their marriage decided to go to New York to secure employment as an artist. She stayed in New York for one year, returning to Crosscup with a man by the name of James Pfeiffer, an artist on the WPA. Crosscup accepted the two into his home and the three lived together until the arrival of the second child. According to Dr. Durrell this was the cause of the divorce. The attitude adopted by Crosscup was if she prefers Pfeiffer over me I will divorce her. This was agreed upon by Alice, James Pfeiffer and Crosscup and accordingly the wife divorced Crosscup, the same being uncontested and later

was very intellectual and kept a very disorderly home. Crosscup's first wife is presently married to James Pfeiffer who is presently teaching at the Shady Hill School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, a rather exclusive school for well-to-do children. During the past few summers Mr. Pfeiffer has worked for Mrs. French at a summer camp in Maine. Professor French stated that Crosscup left his employment with him of his own accord and the circumstances surrounding his leaving are an interesting point.

Professor French stated that at the conclusion of the school year the faculty produces a play for the benefit of the children in which all the faculty take part. Crosscup wrote the play that was produced by the faculty one year and it was a very splendid job. About the same time Crosscup became acquainted with a young musician and based on the success Crosscup had in writing the school play he had the idea that he would become a success in writing musical comedies and accordingly the young musician and Crosscup went to New York to crash Broadway.

Professor French stated that Crosscup was smart enough to realize that he would have to maintain himself while in New York and secured a position as teacher at the Walden School in New York City as a grade school teacher. He taught the seventh or eighth grade. His only reason for accepting this position was for living expenses while he was making preparations to crash Broadway.

Professor French shared the thoughts of Dr. Durrell in connection with Crosscup's first wife, that she is so much like Crosscup on her ideas of life that it would be just as well to talk to Crosscup himself.

Professor French stated that Crosscup had one child MARTHA by his first wife and made it a point to support this child and accordingly Professor French stated that in order to help Crosscup support this child he enrolled Martha in the Cambridge Lower School operated by Professor French, tuition free. At the present time Martha is living with Crosscup's first wife in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He never heard of the second child, Joachim, but did say that Alice and James Pfeiffer have a young child about two years old at the present time.

It should be noted that the only records that disclosed the birth of the second child, Joachim, [redacted] is the divorce decree. The statements of the subject in the Harvard Decennial report mentions only one child, Martha.

Based on the information received from Professor French and Dr. Durrell it was deemed impractical to interview Crosscup's former wife, Alice Reed Champion Crosscup.

A check of the indices of the Boston office fails to reveal any information concerning the subject Gwendolyn Bennett.

remarried James Pfeiffer, however, the three continued to live together.

Dr. Durrell said Crosscup is a very convincing speaker and after listening to him on his ideas of life one will wonder who is crazy Crosscup or the listener.

Durrell stated it is his understanding that Crosscup is now married to a negress which does not surprise Dr. Durrell knowing Crosscup as he does.

According to Dr. Durrell Crosscup had no connection with the Communist Party in this area, however, he admits that Crosscup's philosophy is the same as that practiced by the Communist Party but they are strictly his own ideas. He believed in organized labor and was one of the members of the American Federation of Teachers in this district. About 1935 he tried to interest the Dean in joining the union but the Dean refused and no further pressure was brought by Crosscup. Dr. Durrell stated that Crosscup's first wife Alice had the same idea on life as Crosscup and talked on a very highly intellectual level but maintained a very low level.

Dr. Durrell stated that in view of the fact that the wife is of the same type as crosscup he is very doubtful whether anything would be gained by talking to her as it would not surprise him if Crosscup should return and the three would again live together.

The writer interviewed Professor John French, founder and headmaster of the Cambridge Upper School, Weston, Massachusetts, who advised that the subject became employed at his school as head of the Remedial program from September 1935 to June 1940, five school years. He described Crosscup as "a very independent cuss," very intellectual and a man who has the idea that the world is against him. He explained this by stating that Crosscup's father was a well-to-do man but lost his money and consequently Crosscup had to struggle to secure his education and figured that the world was against him all the way. He was interested in a teachers' union and active in the Teachers' Union located in Boston, Massachusetts, but never attempted to recruit any other teachers at the school.

If he wanted to talk about labor Crosscup would express his ideas regardless of who may be listening. Dr. French stated that Crosscup's economic ideas were on the Communist angle but he was not known to have any party affiliations.

Professor French stated that Crosscup was very honest, had his own opinions and expressed them.

Professor French had much the same idea of the subject's philosophy of life as that expressed by Dr. Durrell.

Professor French stated that he knew the subject's first wife but had very little respect for her. She was very sloppy, lived so to speak in the clouds,

Confidential Informant T-1 advised that at one of the American Youth Congress meetings June 19, 1936 it was proposed Richard Crosscup of the CIU speak on War and Fascism instead of Mr. Turner. The motion was carried ten to eight.

Confidential Informant T-1 further advised in January 1938 the Massachusetts Youth Congress sponsored a model state youth legislature to be held January 8 and 9, 1938. As part of the program on Sunday, January 9 at 1 PM was a round table discussion. Labor was to be discussed by Richard Crosscup.

No record was contained in the Boston indices on James Pfeiffer.

*REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Will contact the proper authorities at the Walden School, New York City for any further information concerning Richard Crosscup's activities while teaching at this school.

*REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN-

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

Confidential Informant T-1 is the report of Special Agent L. G. Healey dated at Boston, Massachusetts, December 17, 1941 entitled American Youth Congress, pages six and one hundred thirty.

-REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN-

-8-

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

FILE NO. 100-56529 EN

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 8/22/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/19, 26; 7/20, 27; 8/1-3, 11, 16/44	REPORT MADE BY JOHN J. MANNING
TITLE GWENDOLYN BENNETT, with aliases			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY-C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that subject was a member of the Communist Party and that about 1939 she attended a communist school located near Kingston, New York, operated by SAM KRAMBERG, an official of the State Committee of the Communist Party in 1943. Subject's activities at present consist solely in directing the affairs of the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL of which the subject is the director. Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that at the present time the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL does not appear to be very active and may be in poor financial condition. On May 21, 1944, the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL held "I AM AN AMERICAN DAY" program in Harlem; about 12,000 people attended; approximately \$900 collected and the Reverend CLAYTON POWELL, Jr., Dr. GENE WELTFISH, co-author of "THE RACES OF MANKIND", MAX YERGAN and CANADA LEE spoke.

Classified by 108 DMM/glt
Declassify on: OADR

- P -

REFERENCE:

Bureau File 100-293468.
Report of Special Agent John J. Manning, dated March 23, 1944, at New York.

DETAILS:

100-293468, NEW YORK CITY

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180 JAN 25 1961

Thirty-day mail cover placed on subject and her husband RICHARD B. CROSSCUP at their residence, 2 West 120 Street, failed to produce any information of value.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>E.E. Conroy</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT ⑤ Bureau 1 Col. S.V. Constant, D. of I., 2 SC 1 Capt. E.B. Nixon, DIO, 3 ND 3 New York 217 COPY IN FILE		293468-6	RECORDED & INDEXED 32
		37 AUG 28 1944	

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

50 OCT 11 1944

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FOIA b 7 - (D)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

~~Confidential Informant~~ [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, advised the writer that he has seen the subject in Party Headquarters from time to time and that she was definitely a member of the Communist Party. He stated that he distinctly remembers seeing the subject about 1939 when she attended a communist school located near Kingston, New York, operated by SAM KRAMBERG, an official of the State Committee of the Communist Party, in 1943. According to the informant, this school was located on a farm near Kingston and was the gathering place for the intellectuals of the Communist Party.

Confidential Informant [redacted] was not sure but believed GWENDOLYN BENNETT traveled to Moscow during a summer vacation around 1937 or 1938. According to [redacted] the subject is also friendly with MATT HALE, 60 East 11th Street, New York City, the organizer of Camp WO-CHI-CA (Workers' Children Camp), as well as ABE TAUBER, 55 West 95th Street, Director of the Camp and MAC WEISMAN, same address as TAUBER's, Educational Director of the Camp and teacher in the Workers' School.

Confidential Informant T-1 advised the reporting agent that he overheard a conversation between DAVID GOLDWAY, New York State Educational Director and BENJAMIN DAVIS, JR., as well as a conversation between GWENDOLYN BENNETT and DAVID GOLDWAY. The informant advised that the substance of the conversation which took place between GOLDWAY and DAVIS was to the effect that GOLDWAY contacted BEN DAVIS to discuss the problems of the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL and GOLDWAY suggested that MAX YERGAN be invited to join in the discussion at some later date. At the time of the discussion GOLDWAY advised DAVIS that GWENDOLYN BENNETT appeared to be working more or less single-handedly on the project and was apparently not getting much assistance. To this DAVIS replied that he felt GWENDOLYN BENNETT was sharing most of the burden and he felt the problems of the school, the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL, should be handled in similar fashion to those arising in connection with the JEFFERSON SCHOOL. DAVIS suggested the name of BEN RICHARDSON, communist minister in Harlem, as an individual who might be of assistance to GWENDOLYN BENNETT in the handling of the affairs of the school. GOLDWAY advised that he didn't like RICHARDSON particularly but that he did not know too much about him. DAVIS stated that RICHARDSON had his highest recommendation and stated that he (RICHARDSON) not only has certain individual views and certain developments growing out of his individual strength and convictions but he also is very much in favor of associating himself with DAVIS and GOLDWAY in every sort of way. (C)

Both DAVIS and GOLDWAY agreed that something had to be done to develop the school and that if it was planned properly they had (e)

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an opportunity for big things. The informant also advised that he overheard a conversation between GOLDWAY and BENNETT to the effect that the problems of the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL were becoming very serious and the school was in danger of closing because of lack of financial assistance.

According to the informant, GWENDOLYN BENNETT stated "I think I am going to quit. I am tired of this job of operating the school. It's terrific. I don't even have money to pay rent with this time." To this GOLDWAY replied "I certainly don't blame you. I'll tell you what I'll do. Suppose I work on trying to get a few hundred dollars to tide you over and get you to pay some of your debts and have money for salaries." The informant advised that BENNETT agreed to this but advised him that the meeting would have to take place very soon. He was unable to furnish any additional information about this meeting and its outcome.

Confidential Informant T-1 also advised that GWENDOLYN BENNETT informed DAVID GOLDWAY that she was going to Washington, D. C., about April 19 and that while there she intended to see prominent Government Officials. She also advised GOLDWAY that she intended to see RUTH BENEDICT while in Washington and would stay with BETTY WHITE'S mother while there to save expenses. The purpose of BENNETT'S attempt to see prominent Government Officials in Washington was not known and the informant was unable to furnish any additional information concerning the matter.

Confidential Informant T-2 advised the writer that HOPE STEVENS, negro attorney with offices located at 209 West 125th Street, appeared to be the attorney for Miss GWENDOLYN BENNETT and the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL. The informant stated that he learned Miss BENNETT was having difficulty with the payment of the rent for the school building and there was talk of the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL being forced out of its present quarters and being compelled to seek a new location. In this respect, Miss BENNETT had talked with MAX YERGAN and stated she would try to fight the matter if she could. The informant stated that an individual known as JOHN J. HYNES, 1146 St. Nicholas Avenue, was believed to be the agent in charge of the property where the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL is located. The present owner of the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL building is the 355 East 11th Street Corporation, New York City.

* Confidential Informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, advised that he has made several visits to the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL and that the enrolled student body appears to have

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NY 100-56529

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dropped off considerably. The informant believed that this was partially due to the summer vacations, also to lack of interest on the part of the negroes in Harlem. He also advised that he heard rumors to the effect that they were having difficulties in paying their rent and their staff.

Confidential Informant [] attended a meeting of the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL on Sunday afternoon, May 21 at 3:00 o'clock at the Golden Gate Ballroom, 142nd Street and Lenox Avenue. The affair was a FOLK FESTIVAL celebrating I AM AN AMERICAN DAY. The program obtained by the informant is set out below:

" THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of the
GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL

cordially invites you to attend a

FOLK FESTIVAL

celebrating

I AM AN AMERICAN DAY

on

Sunday, Afternoon, May Twenty-First
at three o'clock

at the

GOLDEN GATE BALLROOM
142nd Street and Lenox Ave.,
New York

Reserved Seats: \$2.00, \$1.20
General Admission: 60 cents
Tax included on all tickets.

PAGE 2

"In time of war the songs of the people rally the spirits of those who fight against Fascism for a free world. In time of peace the songs and dances of the different nations are the

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"warp and woof around which the people's culture is woven and made strong. Mindful of this, the George Washington Carver School takes this opportunity, through their songs and dances, to pay tribute to the Allied Nations and the oppressed peoples of the earth who are giving their lives today that we may live in a better world. Any patriotic celebration of the American people must take into consideration the varied streams of culture that have flowed into our Nation. Any concept of peace must take note of the need for cooperation among all peoples, here and abroad. The future of our Nation will be secure only through the full participation of all its people--Negro and white, Jew and Gentile, Protestant and Catholic, native and foreign-born.

"The foremost leaders of the Allied Nations have declared their intention to fight in unison for the elimination of Fascism from the face of the earth and to work in unified cooperation for a lasting peace. Here at home such unison and cooperation must be the core of our war effort and the unqualified goal of our peace. Unity is the precept around which our American ideals were built and must be maintained. It is in this spirit that we celebrate I Am An American Day by presenting a folk festival around the theme: "UNITED, WE MARCH FORWARD AS ONE NATION!"

PAGE 3

"PROGRAM

INVOCATION

Rev. Charles Y. Trigg, Pastor--Salem A.M.E. Church

NATIONAL ANTHEM

GROUP SINGERS:

Hall Johnson Choir, Finnish Women's Choir, Chinese People's Chorus

SOLOISTS:

Aubrey Pankey, Baritone
Laura Staska

South American Folk Songs
Czechoslovakian Folk Songs
Pianist--H. A. Schimmerling,
Musical Director of the Czechoslovak Choral Society of N. Y.

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NY 100-56529

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"Jeronimo Villarino, Singing Guitarist
Efin Vitis
Liu Liango-Mo

Flamenco Songs
Russian Songs
Soloist with Chinese
People's Chorus

DANCERS:

Pearl Primus

The Negro Speaks of
Rivers

Poem by Langston Hughes
Music by Sarah Malament
Recitation by Gordon Heath

Jane Dudley of the Martha Graham
Dancers
Josephine Premice-Phinks

Harmonica Breakdown
Haitian Dance

Jimmy Savo,
Comedian from Cafe Society Uptown

Mary Lou William,
Boogie-Woogie Pianist

All-Star Quartette:

Toddy Wilson, Pianist from Cafe Society Uptown
Sidney Catlett, Drummer from The Three Deuces
Ben Webster, Saxophonist, with the Kirby Orchestra
Al Lucas, Bass Violinist

SPEAKERS:

Miss Gene Weltfish, co-author of Public Affairs,
pamphlet--"The Race of Mankind"

Dr. Max Yergan, Council on African Affairs

Race and Nationality
The George Washington
Carver School

Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Jr.

Developing the Thinking
Citizen

Hale Woodruff

Art and the People

CHAIRMAN:

Gwendolyn Bennett, Director of the George Washington Carver School "

Informant's report concerning the above-mentioned celebra-
tion is as follows:-----

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"TIME: 4 P.M. - CLOSED: 6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE: Approximately 1200. Most of which were the intelligencia, Inter Racial groups and servicemen in uniform.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES - GWENDOLYN BENNETT,
Director of George Washington Carver School.

"The invocation was offered by the REVEREND CHARLES Y. TRIGG, Pastor of Salem A.M.E. Church. The National Anthem was sung. Hall Johnson Choir Sang. Solos were sung by AUBREY PANKEY and Miss LAMA STASKA, a Czechoslovakian. TEDDY WILSON, Quartette from Cafe Society Uptown offered a couple of numbers.

SPEAKERS

"Miss GENE WELTFISH, Co-Author of Public Affair pamphlet "THE RACES OF MANKIND", said that all men given the same training and opportunities were equal. She endorsed the George Washington Carver School; said it was a credit to the Negroes of this community and was deserving of the support of all races.

"DR. MAX YERGAN, Council of African Affairs, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the George Washington Carver School, welcomed the groups and told of the progress of the school which was encouraging and asked for continued support by people of Harlem.

"CANADA LEE was introduced at this time. He read a letter from one of his buddies who is with the Armed Forces in the South Pacific indicating that a good kind of Democracy that was being practiced among the soldiers in that area. LEE ended his talk by singing 'MY COUNTRY TIS OF THEE'.

"A CLAYTON POWELL - Brought the house down with a speech 'WHY A SEPARATE CELEBRATION IN HARLEM ON I AM AN AMERICAN DAY.' POWELL stated a day of National celebration should be made on the days when GOVERNOR TALMADGE of Georgia and MARTIN DIES of Texas are burned. POWELL stated that we should fight until every minority group in this country was accorded full democratic treatment. GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL

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NY 100-56529

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"was dedicated to the full Democratic principles of all peoples and should receive everyone's support.

At this point he appealed for funds for the school and started with a check for \$50.00 himself. The total amount collected was approximately \$900.



JOHN A. BRANN, Work Projects Administration, Sub-Treasury Building, Pine and Nassau Streets, New York City, was interviewed by the writer in regard to additional information regarding the activities of the subject. He advised that he was unable to furnish any additional information not previously reported but that he felt any one of the following individuals might be of assistance in obtaining information concerning her:

WILFRED BAIN
32 Orange Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Telephone: MAine 4-2268

AUGUSTA SAVAGE, (address unknown)
Formerly a sculpturer connected with the
Art Project in the Harlem Center where
the subject formerly worked.

HERMAN RAPPOPORT
99 East 4th Street

MAX MOUGEL
Minneford Avenue
City Island, New York

Additional investigation conducted in the vicinity of 57 West 125th Street, where the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL is located, and 2 West 120th Street by Special Agent William A. Costello and the reporting agent, indicates that RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, husband of the subject, is at the present time engaged in Camp activities outside of New York City.

The subject GWENDOLYN BENNETT appears to be engaged solely in directing the activities of the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL.

- P E N D I N G -

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NY 100-56529

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION:

At New York City, N. Y. - Will endeavor to obtain handwriting specimens of the subject and will report all communist activities concerning the subject and the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL, with which she is affiliated.

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NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ The Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of Special Agent John J. Manning, dated August 22, 1944, at New York, New York, are as follows:

T-1 - [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau.

T-2 - [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

JJM:POH
100-56529
TO : Director, FBI
DATE: November 18, 1944
FROM : SAC, New York
SUBJECT: GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
(Bureau File No. 100-293468)

Information received by this office indicates that the Subject's entire time and effort appears to be centered around the George Washington Carver School, Negro Communist front organization located at 57 West 125th Street, New York City. The Subject is the Director of the above-mentioned school.

Informants of this office state that the Subject at the present time appears to have little if any activity in general Communist Party affairs.

In view of the above information, the Subject's case is being placed in a pending inactive status at this time. A report will be submitted on or before February 22, 1945.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/15/92 BY 1048/DKM/gjt

RECORDED

100-293468-7

NOV 20 1944

6 1 NOV 25 1944

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

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FILE NO. 100-56529 RPH

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE FEB 22 1945	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/5, 8, 23; 10/30; 11/14, 18, 25; 12/12, 14, 26/44; 2/10, 19/45	REPORT MADE BY JOHN J. MANNING
TITLE GWENDOLYN BENNETT, with aliases			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Major portion of subject's activity confined to the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL of which she is the Director. BENNETT also teaches at JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, alleged Communist dominated organization located at 575 6th Avenue, NYC.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY SLIP(S) DATE

REFERENCE:

Bureau File 100-293468.

Report of Special Agent John J. Manning dated August 22, 1944 at New York, New York.

DETAILS:

AT NEW YORK CITY

CLASS. & BY 6P-4 JRM/MLK
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 10-30-90

Confidential Informant [redacted], whose identity is known to the Bureau, advised this office that he visited the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL on September 3, 1944 in an attempt to contact Miss BENNETT. The subject was not present at the school at the time and the informant inquired of the progress of the school from Miss BENNETT's secretary, whose identity was not learned. The secretary advised the informant that the school was anything but successful as far as enrollment was concerned. She advised that at that time the school did not appear to be "catching" on with the negroes in Harlem. The informant advised that the school itself appeared to be disarranged, dirty, and more or less abandoned.

At a later date the above informant contacted GWENDOLYN BENNETT who advised him that the school was moderately successful and that its purpose was to enable the negro to cope with the problems of the new world and to assure

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 100-293468-8		RECORDED & INDEXED 44	EX-3
Bureau New York AR 5-1-45		FEB 24 1945	
50 MAY 2 - 1945		CONFIDENTIAL	

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NY 100-56529

him of a place in the postwar plan of things. (S)(u)

Confidential Informant [redacted] attended a series of lectures given by the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL, entitled, "The Negro and the Nation." The informant advised that Miss BENNETT opened the course and introduced the various instructors to the student body. At that time the subject stated that the course "The Negro and the Nation" was jointly sponsored by the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL, the JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, and the "PEOPLES VOICE", negro Communist newspaper. Miss BENNETT advised that the idea of a joint session of both schools originated with HAROLD COLLINS, known Communist instructor at the JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE. (S)(u)

[redacted] submitted a report concerning the lecture given by GWENDOLYN BENNETT on current problems. The informant's report concerning this matter is set forth below: (S)(u)

Miss BENNETT said that the negro pledged allegiance to the flag 100%. According to her this was both the curse and the hope. "We have all races, creeds and colors warring against each other. Sympathy is not enough, we must have a permanent F.E.P.C. to end "Jim Crow" in the Armed Forces and in wartime industry. We should do away with mistreatment of all minority groups and extend the privileges to the negro and all minority groups in this country. Miss BENNETT stated that we have three different types of people dealing with the problem. The conservatives who are content to let things stay as they are; another group that is satisfied that the negro is not qualified for equal rights; and a third group that thinks the negro is lazy, immoral, and should be kept down." (S)(u)

Miss BENNETT stated that "the real reason the negro was retarded in an intellectual group was because he was relegated to the fields and the woods." (S)(u)

Miss BENNETT stated that we have "Jim Crow" right here in our midst — in the theatres, in the dining places, and even in the church itself. Miss BENNETT declared that all minority groups originated with the germs of Fascism — the rule of the many by the few. (S)(u)

Miss BENNETT stated that one cannot stand complacently by and swallow the teachings of the South. "Fascism is unscientific and against all reason." (S)(u)

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NY 100-56529

If we are human beings we must react against injustice. (S)(u)

Confidential Informant [] advised the reporting agent that at the present time the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL appears to be in poor financial condition and will have to be subsidized by someone in order to continue. (S)(u)

Confidential Informant T-1 advised the reporting agent that on September 18, 1944 he overheard a conversation between BEN DAVIS, negro Communist councilman, and an unknown woman, believed to be GWENDOLYN BENNETT, to the effect that after GIL (believed to be GIL GREEN) had written her a letter (meaning GWENDOLYN BENNETT'S letter) a meeting was held on the matter of giving aid to the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL, and as a result \$500.00 was to be donated to the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL. (S)

The unknown woman asked DAVIS how she was to go about obtaining the money, and he stated, "You just come down here and get it, and worry later about how it is to be entered." The woman asked to whom she was to go and he stated, "Go to see DAVE REEDS" (Communist Party functionary). (S)

A review of the 1944 catalogue of the JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE indicates that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was an instructor in "Art, History, and Appreciation."

alleged Communist dominated organization
The JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, 575 Sixth Avenue, New York City, was contacted by the reporting agent under suitable pretext and the following information obtained:

At the present time GWENDOLYN BENNETT is an instructor on the staff of the above mentioned school and is teaching two classes on Wednesday evenings. The first class is from 7:10 to 8:40 P. M. and is entitled, "Art, History, and Appreciation of the Late Renaissance. The second class is from 8:50 to 10:20 P. M. and is on modern art.

Confidential Informant T-2 advised the reporting agent that GWENDOLYN BENNETT submitted a complete three page memorandum to ALEXANDER TRACHTENBERG, Director of Publicity for the COMMUNIST POLITICAL ASSOCIATION, and Secretary and Treasurer of the INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHERS INCORPORATED, 381 Fourth Avenue, New York City. The memorandum submitted by GWENDOLYN BENNETT to TRACHTENBERG sets forth information concerning the need, scope, faculty, student body, organization, and so forth of the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL, and is set forth below: (S)

- 3 -

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NY 100-56529

" Discussion Notes on the George Washington Carver School.
Submitted by Gwendolyn Bennett - Monday, July 19th, 1943. (A)

"NEED

In view of the rapidly changing political and social attitudes engendered by the war and the growing indignation among the Negro people against discrimination and segregation the opening of the Carver School as a broad educational center in Harlem seems exceedingly timely. Recent riots against the Negro people stirred up by Fifth Columnist who wish to hinder the war effort and heighten race-hatred among the American people adds another cogent reason why such a school, opened under the proper auspices, should succeed at this time. The fact that no people's school, catering to the needs of all sections of the population who wish to know and understand the world we live in, exists in the Greater New York area gives another reason why the Carver School situated in Harlem, the recognized Negro metropolis of America, should fill a real need. If founded and operated on a broad, non-partisan base, such a school should become an educational institution of national significance in the lives of Negro Americans. (A)

"SCOPE

The Carver School should embrace all sections of the Harlem Community. The breadth of its scope should never be neglected. Its governing board, executive committee, and other functioning committees should include: Negro and white leaders of New York City, representatives of Negro churches, Negro trade-unionists, office workers, civic leaders of all shades of political conviction, representatives of the Negro press, prominent cultural figures, representatives of parent and teacher groups - in short all those people, Negro and white, who can and are willing to give the school wise, courageous, and objective direction toward its goal of developing mature leadership and citizenry among the Negro people around a policy of winning the people's war in which our nation is engaged and contributing substantially to the people's peace which will come with victory for the Allied Nations. (A)

"The School should be launched as a non-partisan school. It should be understood that the School operates to further in everyway a program in keeping with true patriotism and understanding of the meaning of American democracy. Although the Carver School shall be a people's school in every sense welcoming all sections of the American population, it should be thought of primarily as

- 4 -

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NY 100-56529

"a school that turns its attention especially to the needs of the Negro people. Although non-partisan in character, it should be understood that the Carver School does not exclude the participation of any group that stands behind the nation at war and which does not seek to disrupt the full development of the people's culture. Although non-political as to general orientation, it should be understood that the School, the Faculty, and students reserve the right to examine the national and international political scene and to act upon their findings, in a forthright, courageous manner. (A)

"FACULTY

"The faculty shall be drawn from the men and women at present teaching in various universities and other institutions, from the leadership of progressive trade unions, and other organizations, from groups of civic and political leaders or from other groups that will contribute to the broad concept of education which the School shall foster. Outstanding scholars, teachers, and leaders from many fields of study will be welcomed. Although completely democratic in character, the faculty, wherever possible, should draw on Negro scholars at work in a given field. (A)

"STUDENT BODY

"To be drawn from all sections of the population. Attention would be directed especially toward attracting workers in industry, in the white collar fields and the professions, members of Negro churches, and other community organizations. (A)

"CURRICULUM

"To consist of courses covering various fields of interest to people of varied backgrounds and interests and degrees of preparation. (A)

"The curriculum shall include such basic courses as:

"The Negro People and the War
American History
Trade Unionism and the Negro People
The Negro and His Government
Current Events or the World Today
Religion and Society
Economics and the Citizen
The Colonial People and the War.
and others. (A)

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"In addition large numbers of cultural and general courses should be included as the student body and the need warrants. (A)

"In addition to the regular courses special study groups should be arranged for groups who wish to study special topics not offered in the general curriculum or who wish to do advanced seminar work in a given field. (A)

"The School will arrange forum and public lectures. (A)

"An extension and lecture department shall give service to trade union, church, and other groups as the need arises. (A)

"LIBRARY

"The School should establish a library which will concentrate on books concerning and by Negroes in addition to basic works on general subjects. (A)

"PUBLICATION:

"The School should work toward a future publication (magazine) which will give scholarly accounts of problems and topics of interest to the Negro people and their friends. A fund should be established for the future publication of pamphlets and books that will contribute to the specialized field of Negro life. (A)

"FINANCES:

"Due to the general poverty of the Harlem community it must be understood that the Carver School will not be self-sustaining. It must be noted here that even those residents of Harlem who have the financial means are not trained in the custom of giving substantially to worthy causes. The nominal fees collected from the students will meet only a small part of the expenses of the school. Funds for the school shall be raised through the contributions of friends or supporters of the school and through benefits, concerts, dinners etc. It should be understood that such a school during its root-developing period must not be hampered by the need of funds nor by the fact that only small amounts can be raised in the community itself. Fund-raising groups should be inter-racial in character. (A)

"Plans should be made at the earliest possible date to purchase a building in order to circumvent the extremely high rentals and to provide a center that shall influence the community socially as well as intellectually. (A)

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NY 100-56529

"FEES

"The tuition fees of the Carver School should be scaled to meet the needs of the low income people. A suggestion would be \$2.50 per term. Provision should be made for partial or total scholarships. Trade unionists, parents of low income, church and other groups should be granted scholarship rates. Community organizations should be encouraged to raise funds to provide free tuition for groups of students. (e)

"ORGANIZATION.

"The School should be owned and administered by an incorporated Board of Directors. The Board of Directors should comprise prominent men and women from all walks of life and of every political conviction. Although the majority of the Board should be drawn from those who are prominent in Negro life, there should be several representatives white people on the Board. The Board should be made up of people who are interested in the school and willing to work toward building it. The Board should meet frequently enough to keep in close touch with the school. (e)

"There shall be a small executive committee selected or approved by the Board which shall meet bi-weekly or on call during periods of stress. This executive committee should consist of one or two officers of the board, the director of the school, a representative from the faculty, a representative of the student body and such other people as may seem necessary. (e)

"Wherever possible members of the Board and of the Executive Com. should reside in and around New York City. (e)

"There should be a large Advisory Committee made up of nationally known educators. This committee should include at least one representative from every major Negro college or university in the country unless otherwise impossible. The Advisory committee shall be a body to give prestige and standing to the School. (e)

"All three bodies - the Board, the Executive Com., and the Advisory Com. - shall assist the School in raising funds, promotion, and public presentations. (e)

"ADMINISTRATION:

(a) Faculty Council - composed of all teaching members, or all who have served ascertain period of time. (e)

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NY 100-56529

- "(b) An Administrative Committee -
to operate the school and carry out policy. With none or few exceptions the members of the administrative staff to teach classes as well.
For the First Term: (unless events dictate otherwise)
Director (From July 1, 1943 on)
Administrative Assistant (From August 15th on)
Office Secretary (From August 1st on)
Promotion Director and head of Extension (From October 1st on)
In future terms, if the school succeeds immediately, the administrative staff may be expanded to include a separate extension director, librarian, and registrar. (X)

"CALENDAR:

The proposed calendar shall be as follows:

Meeting of Committee of the Whole to Establish the Carver School -
Mon. July 19

Registration for Fall Term: Sept. 20th through October 1st.

Large Public Meeting to Announce opening of School - September
19th or 26th.

Fall Term: Twelve weeks October 4th through December 24th.

Pre-Christmas Party or Dance - Saturday, December 18th or Sun.
Dec. 19th.

Winter Term: January 10th through March 31st - 12 weeks.

Winter Registration: Dec. 27th through Jan. 7th.

Emancipation Proclamation Public Forum - Sunday, January 2nd.

Negro History week Celebration - entire week February 13th
through 19th. Large Public Forum or concert
beginning or end of the week.

Spring Term: Ten weeks April 17th through June 23rd. (X)

The following information was newspaper comment concerning the subject and her activities: (X)

The "Peoples Voice", negro Communist newspaper in issue of September 23, 1944 contained a picture of the subject together with background information which has been previously furnished to the Bureau. (X)

The "Daily Worker" in issue of December 9, 1944 contained an article concerning the course "The Negro and the Nation" given jointly by the JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL, and the "Peoples Voice". The article stated that the outstanding lecturers included DOXEY WILKERSON, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, and ALPHAEUS HUNTON (known Communists).

- 8 -

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"The New York Amsterdam News" Negro newspaper, in issue of January 20, 1945 stated that a meeting took place at the Schomburg Collection, 135 Public Library on January 14, 1945, at which time Doctor REDDICK, Curator of the Schomburg Collection, and GWENDOLYN BENNETT spoke regarding GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER. The substance of Miss BENNETT'S talk was the meaning of the life of Doctor CARVER as related to the general education of Negroes in America.

The "Peoples Voice" in issue of January 27, 1945, contained a picture of the subject, together with the following individuals:

RACKHAM HOLT and SHIRLEY GRAHAM, biographers of CARVER; ✓
DOROTHY HOMER, Librarian;
Councilman BENJAMIN DAVIS;
LAWRENCE D. REDDICK, Curator, Schomburg Collection; and
DOXEY A. WILKERSON, executive editor of PV.

"The New York Amsterdam News" of February 10, 1945 in the column entitled, "Labor Forum" by M. MORAN WESTON, stated:

"The George Washington Carver School aims not only to help working people understand better the world they live in; it also seeks to keep alive the life and work of Dr. Carver as a source of inspiration to others who face, as he did, adversity and lack of opportunity. Whereas the People's College is an outgrowth of the schools and colleges in Atlanta, the Carver School is in a sense an outgrowth of the labor movement in New York. According to the Director of the Carver School, Gwendolyn Bennett, nationally known poet and author, almost half of the students attending the school since it was organized in October, 1943, have been members of trade unions. Some fifteen CIO and AFL unions were represented in the student body of 358 last term."

The "New York Age" Negro newspaper in issue of February 10, 1945, contained an article that the BEN DAVIS CLUB would hold a weeks celebration in honor of Negro History Week. The article went on to say:

"The Ben Davis Club (named for Councilman Davis) of the CPA has arranged programs during Negro History Week at its headquarters, 2315 Seventh Avenue, Sunday, February 11th, at 4 p.m. at the club, a forum will be held at which time Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, Jr. and Miss Gwendolyn Bennett, director of the George Washington Carver School of Harlem will be guest speakers, also entertainment."

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

The "Pittsburgh Courier", Negro newspaper, in issue of February 17, 1945 indicates that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, Director of the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL, participated in a forum in connection with Negro History Week, the forum taking place at N.M.U. Recreation Hall.

- P E N D I N G -

- 10 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

* AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK - Will endeavor to obtain additional handwriting specimens of the subject and will report all Communist activities concerning the subject and the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL, of which she is Director.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of Special Agent John J. Manning dated February 22, 1945 at New York, New York are:

T-1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
* Confidential Informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau. (c)

T-2

A highly reliable and confidential source having access to the records and files of the ALEXANDER FRACHTENBERG INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHERS, INC. 381 Fourth Avenue, New York City, and who made the same available to Special Agents Frederick C. Zinck, Edward F. Hummer, J. Lewis Ames, and Jerome M. Garland. (c)

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

JJM:RFH
100-56529TO : Director, FBI
Attention: FBI Laboratory
FROM : SAC, New York

DATE: February 22, 1945

SUBJECT: GWENDOLYN BENNETT, with aliases
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
(Bureau File 100-293468)~~CONFIDENTIAL~~*G. Bennett*

D32406

Herewith is submitted for inclusion in the National Security file five photostatic copies of a handwriting specimen of the above captioned subject. Some difficulty has been experienced in obtaining sufficient handwriting specimens of the subject in view of the fact that most of her correspondence and work is done by typewriter. Every effort will be made to obtain more comprehensive additional specimens of the subject's handwriting, and the same will be forwarded to the Bureau as they are received.

Enclosures (5)

REGISTERED MAIL

NO ANS. NEC. *One*
SPEC. RETAINED IN LAB

2-26-45
HO:MFA

Classified by - 1048/DKM/gtl
Declassify on: OADR
12/16/92

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
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OTHERWISE

RECORDED

100-293468-9

FEB 28 1945

5 MAR 13 1945

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~SEVEN~~*AMB*

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DATE 12/24/92 BY D48/EK/M/gth

ENCLOSURE

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R130 JAN 25 1961

100-293448-9

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300.

5 Enclosures for BUREAU Office

Re: NEW YORK FILE NO. 100-56529

No. 496

December 11 1944

Received from William Wilks

Five ¹⁰⁰ ₁₀₀ Dollars

Tuition - The Negro and the Nation

\$ 5.00

George Washington Carver

School Committee

G. Beatt

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY FILE NO.

100-56529 MXS

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 11/30/45	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3/26, 4/9, 5/2; 6/7, 9/12, 27, 11/11 10/9, 11/15, 26/45	REPORT MADE BY JOHN J. MANNING
TITLE GWENDOLYN BENNETT, with aliases			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY-C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

GWENDOLYN BENNETT continues to occupy position of director of George Washington Carver School, Communist front organization. Her name is frequently mentioned in the columns of the "Daily Worker", and the "Peoples Voice", Negro Communist newspaper, in connection with the affairs of the George Washington Carver School. At the present time subject is also conducting classes in American art at the Jefferson School of Social Science, 575 Avenue of the Americas, NYC.

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REFERENCE:

Bureau File 100-293468

- P * CLASS. & EXT. BY
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW

Report of S.A. John J. Manning, 2/2/45 at NYC.

DETAILS:

AT NEW YORK CITY:-

Confidential Informant T-1 advised Special Agent (A) Albert J. McGrath that a check #295 was drawn on the Communist Political Association of New York State account at the Manufacturers Trust Company, 32 University Place, New York City to GWENDOLYN BENNETT, director of the George Washington Carver School, on September 18, 1944 in the amount of \$500. Informant advised that the check was endorsed "George Washington Carver School".

Classified by 10418/DKM/ltf
Declassify on: OADR
12/29/82
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R180 JAN 25 1961

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5--Bureau 3--New York		RECORDED & INDEXED 100-293468-10	20
		32 DEC 4 1945	

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Confidential Informant T-2 advised this office that he was present when GWENDOLYN BENNETT, director of the George Washington Carver School had a discussion with GIL GREEN, president of the New York State CPA, on May 10, 1945. Informant advised that Miss BENNETT told GREEN that she would not ask him for the money if the school did not need it to which GREEN replied that it was her job to raise the money, and that he preferred to give it to her when she really needed it. GREEN stated that he placed his word that when she needed it she would get it and not to worry about the matter, that the promise would be kept. Informant advised that during the conversation, Miss BENNETT had also stated that she had made four mailings of the catalogues of the school to various Communist club members together with a letter over BENJAMIN J. DAVIS JR.'s signature. Additional letters were sent over the signature of CHARLES A. COLLINS and ROSE GAULDEN. All of the above mentioned individuals are well known Communist functionaries in this city. The purpose of the letters in question was to increase the student enrollment at the George Washington Carver School. (C)

Confidential Informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, on March 3, 1945, advised that the subject, a few months previously, had addressed the "inter-denominational ministers meeting", at the Harlem Y.M.C.A. This body is a group of ministers from the Harlem area which includes all faiths with the exception of the Roman Catholic. Informant advised that at this meeting, Miss BENNETT discussed the Carver School, and requested the ministers to instruct their various groups to send students from the churches to attend the school. She advised that for every five students attending from any particular church, one scholarship would given. The group, however, refused to issue an order to its members to enroll as students in the Carver School, and advised BENNETT that she would have to approach each individual minister in the Harlem area, and present her case. Informant further advised that Miss BENNETT did approach the ministers of a number of churches in the Harlem area, and that some of the churches sent students to the school. One of the individuals used by Miss BENNETT to obtain additional students was an individual known as ALGER ADAMS, a minister who was promised a job as instructor in religion at the school if he could supply a number of students. (X) (u)

Confidential Informant T-3 furnished this office with the following background information concerning the formation of the George Washington Carver School, of which the subject is chairman. (C)

On July 20, 1945, the informant was present when DAVID GOLDWAY, educational director of the Communist Party discussed with ALEXANDER TRACHTENBERG, high Communist functionary, the establishment of a negro workers school in the Harlem area. Informant advised that GOLDWAY had attended the meeting on the previous evening at which the following were present: LEONARD CAVELLO, former high school principal now with the Y.M.C.A., MAX YERGAN, former C.C.N.Y. instructor, and executive director of the Council on African Affairs, who attended the (C)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

meeting, holding proxies from ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR. and CHANNING H. TOBIAS of the Y.M.C.A. (c)

At the meeting in question, it was decided that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was to be director of the new school, and that MAX YERGAN, another well known Communist was to act as chairman. (c)

The negro Communist newspaper "Peoples Voice", frequently refers to the subject in connection with the affairs of the George Washington Carver School. Pertinent references to the subject appearing in this newspaper are as follows:

The "Peoples Voice", issue of July 10, 1945 contained an article which stated in part that the second term of the Carver School would open on February 13, 1946, that the subject, GWENDOLYN BENNETT would continue to occupy the position as director of the George Washington Carver School, and that the total negro student enrollment at that time was 1081 students.

The "Peoples Voice" of February 24, 1945 stated that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, director the George Washington Carver School, was still receiving registration s for the various courses which were to be conducted at the institution.

On May 14, 1945 the "Peoples Voice", again mentioned the subject as director of the George Washington Carver School.

The "Peoples Voice" of May 5, 1945 contained a picture of the subject and her staff at the Carver School.

The "Peoples Voice" of July 28, 1945 listed the subject as one of the judges of the question and answer contest on negro matters which was to be jointly conducted by the "Peoples Voice", and the George Washington Carver School.

The "Peoples Voice", issue of November 24, 1945 contained an article concerning the Carver School a summary of which is as follows: GWENDOLYN BENNETT, director of the George Washington Carver School, has stated that the school has just celebrated its second year of steady progress and has an alltime record of registration with more than 700 students being offered 39 courses.

The "Daily Worker" frequently mentions the subject by name in connection with the affairs of the George Washington Carver School, and the Jefferson School of Social Science, which is located at 575 Avenue of the Americas, New York City.

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The issues of the "Daily Worker", in which pertinent portions pertaining to the subject are found are as follows:

The "Daily Worker" of February 18, 1945 stated that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, director, believes the Carver School will grow in size, and will become a definite influence in the negro community. She also stated that in their school there is strong trade union support.

The "Daily Worker" of May 5, 1945 contained a picture of the subject and her staff taken during the opening day classes of the spring term of the George Washington Carver School. The women appearing in the picture were MAMIE BROWN, public relations secretary, ELIZABETH ADAMS, librarian, ELIZABETH CATLETT WHITE, director of student activities, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, director, EDITH ROBERTS, registrar, and HERMIE DUMONT, administrative assistant. All of the above mentioned individuals are well known Communists in this city. It should be noted in regard to HERMIE DUMONT that this individual was at one time actively engaged in courier activities for the Comintern and was expelled from several European countries together with her husband, OTTO HUISWOD.

The "Daily Worker", issue of May 7, 1945 indicates that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was a sponsor of a meeting in honor of JACQUES ROUMAIN, negro Haitian Communist who recently died. The meeting in question was held at the New York Times Hall and was highlighted by an address by EARL BROWDER, president of the Communist Political Association, as well as additional addresses by CANADA LEE, and MAX HOUDICOURT, prominent Communist.

150/1a
50/1a
The "Daily Worker", issue of April 5, 1945 indicated that the subject was conducting classes in "Modern Art----Cezanne to the Present", the course in question given by the subject was held at the Jefferson School of Social Science, located at 575 Avenue of the Americas, New York City. This institution is a well known Communist front organization.

Confidential Informants [redacted] and [redacted] whose identities are known to the Bureau, advised the reporting Agent that the subject's communist activities appear to be confined mainly to the affairs of the Jefferson School of Social Science and the George Washington Carver School, with most of her time and effort being devoted to the latter organization. (S)(u)

- P E N D I N G -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

At New York City:-

Will follow and report the Communist activities of the subject, and her activities in connection with the George Washington Carver School, of which she is the director.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS~~

The following Confidential Informants were mentioned in the report of Special Agent John J. Manning, dated November 30, 1945 at New York, New York:

T-1

EDWARD CARDIFF, Assistant Manager
Manufacturers Trust Company
32 University Place, New York City.

T-2

(C) [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau.

T-3

(C) [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO. **100-56529**

JRW

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 9/20/46	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/11; 3/26; 6/14; 27; 8/1, 12, 29, 30/46	REPORT MADE BY JOHN J. MANNING
TITLE GWENDOLYN BENNETT with aliases Gwendolyn Bennett Crosscup, Mrs. Alfred Jackson, Gwendolyn Bennett Jackson, Ruth Gale			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject, a negro, claims to have been born 7/8/02 at Giddings, Texas. At the present time she resides at 2 West 120th Street, NYC with her husband, RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, who is a white man. Subject's husband was born 7/24/05 at Dorchester, Mass. The subject is the present director of the George Washington Carver School, Negro Communist Front Organization, located at 57 West 125th Street, NYC. In addition, she is a part time lecturer at the Jefferson School of Social Science, 575 Sixth Avenue, NYC. Subject is a member of the Harlem Section of the Communist Party.

- P* -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

REFERENCE:

Bureau file 100-293468.
SAC letter #28 series 1946, dated March 12, 1946.
Report of Special Agent JOHN J. MANNING, 11/30/45, New York.

DETAILS:

At New York City

On June 14, 1946, the Reporting Agent verified the fact that the subject continues to reside at 2 West 120th Street, New York City. The subject is a negro and her husband, RICHARD B. CROSSCUP is a white man.

On the same date as above, it was determined that the subject is still the director of the George Washington Carver School, Negro

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Edward Scheidt</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
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	INDEXED 341 EX-35

60 JAN 21 1947

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

Communist Front Organization, located at 57 West 125th Street, New York City. It was also determined that the subject was a part time lecturer at the Jefferson School of Social Science, Communist School, located at 575 Sixth Avenue, New York City.

The records of the WPA, Sub Treasury Building, Pine and Nassau Streets, New York City, were reviewed by the Reporting Agent and it was determined from these records that the subject, a negro, claimed to have been born at Giddings, Texas in July 1902. A letter from the Health Department at Giddings, Texas to the New York Branch of the WPA indicated that birth records were not maintained at Giddings, Texas until 1903.

On June 25, 1940, the subject married RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, a white man. The files also reflected that the subject, at the present time, is employed as the director of the George Washington Carver School in Harlem.

The records of the Registrar's Office, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts were reviewed by an Agent of the Boston Field Division and the following information concerning RICHARD B. CROSSCUP was obtained:

RICHARD B. CROSSCUP was born July 24, 1905 at Dorchester, Massachusetts. His father's name was given as LOUIS EDWIN CROSSCUP, His mother's name being LILLIAN CAMPBELL CROSSCUP. Dates of birth of the parents were not given.

The Daily Worker, issue of January 11, 1946, contains an article captioned NOTED NEGROES TO LECTURE AT JEFFERSON SCHOOL. Among those listed was the name of Miss GWENDOLYN BENNETT who will lecture on Art. The Daily Worker of the same date carried an advertisement of the Jefferson School of Social Science, 575 Sixth Avenue, New York City, indicating that GWENDOLYN BENNETT would teach a course in Modern Art : CEZANNE TO THE PRESENT.

The Daily Worker of January 29, 1946 indicated that the International Workers Order awarded prizes to the George Washington School and the Institute for Jewish Studies. The awards would be presented by GWENDOLYN BENNETT, director of the Carver School, and MORRIS U. SCHAPPES, union communist and director of the Institute for Jewish Studies.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

The Daily Worker of January 31, 1946 indicated that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, director of the George Washington Carver School, would speak on "The Negro in Art" at the Jefferson School on Thursday at 6:30 P.M. The article stated that BENNETT was a member of the American Artists Congress and the Artists' Union, affiliated to the CIO.

The Daily Worker of February 3, 1946 contains the administrative staff of the George Washington Carver School which includes a picture of the subject.

~~Confidential~~ Informant [redacted] advised this Office that the subject attended the Harlem Section Convention of the Communist Party which was held March 1, 1946 and also March 3, 1946. The first session was held at the Ethiopian World Federation Auditorium, 290 Lenox Avenue, New York City and the second at 15 West 126th Street, New York City. The informant advised that only members of the Communist Party attended. (S)

Confidential Informant [redacted] supplied this Office with a list of the Communist Party Harlem Section. Listed thereon were those individuals nominated for a position on the Section Committee. Subject, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was nominated and her name included on the ballot but was not included on the Committee. The identity of [redacted] is known to the Bureau. (S)

- P E N D I N G -

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

- 3 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~NEW YORK~~ FIELD DIVISION

At New York City

Will follow and report the Communist activities of the subject,
and her activities in connection with the George Washington Carver School,
of which she is the director.

- 4 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

100-293468

SAC, New York City

November 6, 1946

Director, FBI

GWENDOLYN BENNETT, with aliases
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
(New York file No. 100-56529)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/16/92 BY 1048/DKM/ST

The Bureau desires that in further investigating this subject's activities specific attention be given to obtaining admissible evidence which will prove directly or circumstantially her membership in or affiliation with the Communist Party, and knowledge of the revolutionary aims and purposes of that organization. When, in your judgment, sufficient evidence has been obtained you should prepare a report in summary form in which temporary symbols will be used to protect the identity of those informants who are in a position to testify.

ARS:MED

RECORDED
58-12

100-293468-12
FBI
53 NOV 18 1946

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 15
NOV 6 - 1946 P.M.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

58 NOV 15 1946

RECEIVED-MAIL ROOM
FBI
NOV 8 4 07 PM '46

December 14, 1948

100-293468

SAC,
New York

RE:

OWENDOLYN BENNETT, was
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
New York File #100-56529

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/16/94 BY 1048/DKM/gtl

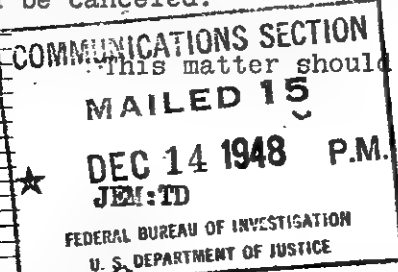
Dear Sir: A review of the files at the Bureau in connection with this subject has revealed that a report has not been received from your office concerning the subject since the report of Special Agent John J. Wanning dated 9-20-46 at New York.

While it is realized that existing instructions do not require that a report be submitted periodically on Security Index card subjects unless the subject is also a top functionary, it is felt that in view of the tense international situation at the present time, a new report should be submitted setting forth the extent of the subject's present activities in connection with the Communist Party and related groups in order that the Bureau will be in possession of current information concerning each one of those subjects who are considered a threat to the internal security.

In submitting the report, the Bureau desires that you incorporate in summary form the information contained in your files not previously reported. Information of substantive nature only should be set forth and repetitious material should be avoided. Where a description of the subject has not been reported, that, too, should be included in the report and also placed on the reverse side of the Security Index card in accordance with the instructions outlined in SAC Letter No. 57, Series 1948, dated April 10, 1948.

In the event the subject's current address is not the same as that which appears on the Security Index card, you should correct the Security Index card and forward Form FD-119 to the Bureau in order that the Security Index card at the Bureau can be corrected.

In order that the Security Index will contain only the names of those individuals who can be considered to be a threat to the internal security of this country, the Bureau desires that you carefully appraise this case and if it appears that the subject, based on his present position and activities or past position and activities, cannot be considered such as threat, then in addition to submitting the report, you should recommend that the Security Index card be canceled.



Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: November 2, 1949

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.
SECURITY MATTER - C
(Bureau file 100-293468)~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MRS. RICHARD CROSSCUP

A review of instant file reflects that the above named individual has not been engaged in Communist activities since November, 1947.

Confidential Informants [] and [] have advised that since 1947, at which time the George Washington Carver School closed, that they have not observed nor heard of any Communist activities on the part of the subject.

(C) Confidential Informant [] advised that GWENDOLYN BENNETT had suffered a nervous breakdown in 1947 and that it was not known whether or not the Carver School would ever reopen.

In view of the above, GWENDOLYN BENNETT'S name is being removed from the Key Figure List in the New York Office and this case is being closed subject to being reopened should the subject again become active in the Communist Party.

Owing to the past activities of the subject in the Communist Party, it is suggested that the Security Index Card in this case continue to be maintained.

Enclosed herewith is the report of SA MELVIN A. THOMPSON, at New York, dated November 2, 1949.

Encs. (5)

EX-110

RECORDED - 124

EX-110

NOV 3 1949

FIVE

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Declassify on: OADR

12/29/92

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100-56529~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

50 NOV 14 1949

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO. **100-56529** mth

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE NOV 2 1949	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/1-3; 8/2; 9/23; 10/5, 14, 17/49	REPORT MADE BY MELVIN A. THOMPSON
TITLE GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject, in 1946, was instructor at Jefferson School of Social Science. Was also director of now defunct George Washington Carver School. T-2 advised in February, 1947 that GWENDOLYN BENNETT is a member of National Cultural Commission of CP. T-1 in September, 1947, advised that Carver School closed and that subject suffered nervous breakdown. T-4, T-5, and T-6 have advised that periodical checks from December, 1947 to October, 1949, failed to disclose any CP activity of the subject. T-4 and T-6 state subject is still residing with husband, RICHARD CROSSCUP, at Two West 120th Street and is unemployed.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

- C -

Classified by 1048/DKmg/tt
~~Declassify on OADR~~
~~12/24/92~~

REFERENCE: Bureau file 100-293468
Bureau letter, 12/14/48
Report of SA JOHN J. MANNING, New York, 9/20/46

DETAILS: The catalog of the Jefferson School of Social Science for September - December, 1946, reflects that the subject will be an instructor at the school.

On November 22, 1946, Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, advised that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, director of the George (f)

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>Edward Schults</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	ENCLOSURE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
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NOV 3 1949 CONFIDENTIAL		NOV 3 1949	

62 NOV 10 1949

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Washington Carver School, was planning to attend the Eastern States Conference on Education on November 23 and 24, 1946, at Communist Party Headquarters, 35 East 12th Street. (C)

The "Daily Worker" issue of January 14, 1947, reported that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, director of the George Washington Carver School, announced that 6,000 persons have taken advantage of the school's educational opportunities over the past three years. She also reported that some new courses were to be started and that the instructors and guest lecturers would be CHARLES LOMAN, RAY HANSBOROUGH, HENRY WINSTON, MAX WEISS, CHARLES A. COLLINS and EDWARD STRONG. ✓

✓ On February 21, 1947, Confidential Informant T-2, of known reliability, advised that GWENDOLYN BENNETT is a member of the National Cultural Commission of the Communist Party.

The catalog of the Jefferson School of Social Science for April and June, 1947 listed GWENDOLYN BENNETT as a faculty member of this institution.

Confidential Informant T-3, of known reliability, advised that all instructors and guest lecturers at the Jefferson School of Social Science are either Communist Party members or strong Communist sympathizers.

On September 17, 1947, Confidential Informant T-1 advised that the George Washington Carver School discontinued operation. Informant said the school was deeply in debt, that the director of the school, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, had suffered a nervous breakdown and no one knew where she was living at this time.

On November 4, 1947, Confidential Informant T-4, of known reliability, advised that the George Washington Carver School had closed its doors and discontinued its activities due to the lack of funds.

From December, 1947 to October, 1949, Confidential Informants T-4, T-5, and T-6, all of known reliability, advised that they have made periodical checks to ascertain whether the George Washington School has renewed operations and that they found that the school is definitely out of existence and will not be reopened.

In October, 1948, Confidential Informant T-7

advised that he had heard from reliable sources that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, former director of the school,

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

is suffering from a nervous breakdown and is somewhat mentally unbalanced and that she is no longer connected with any activities of the Communist Party.

✓ Confidential Informant T-4 and T-6 advised in August, 1949 that the subject is suffering from a nervous breakdown and is no longer connected with any activities of the Communist Party. Informants stated that the subject is residing at Two West 120th Street, New York City, with her husband, RICHARD CROSSCUP, and that she is confining herself to her apartment and that she is unemployed.

On October 5, 1949, Mrs. GLADYS M. ALEXANDER, Two West 120th Street, New York City, was interviewed under pretext and Mrs. ALEXANDER stated that GWENDOLYN BENNETT is in "poor health" and seldom leaves her apartment. She stated that the subject is a housewife and that for the past two years the subject and her husband have "kept to themselves" and have had very few visitors.

✕ On October 14, 1947, Confidential Informant T-6 advised that he had ascertained from reliable sources in Harlem that the subject was "through with the Communist Party" and was only interested in her own affairs as a wife and her duties as a housewife.

- C L O S E D -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of SA MELVIN A. THOMPSON, at New York, dated NOV 2 1949 are as follows:

T-1

(C) [redacted] (C)

T-2

(C) [redacted] (C)

T-3

(C) [redacted] who reported to
SA CHARLES F. HEINER.

T-4

(C) [redacted] who reported to
SA FRANK J. SMITH.

T-5

(C) [redacted] who reported to
SA ALEXANDER C. BURLINSON.

T-6

[redacted] who reported to
SAS JOHN J. MANNING and
MELVIN A. THOMPSON.

T-7

[redacted]

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
New York 7, New York

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Egan	_____
Mr. Gurnea	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

December 13, 1949

Detabled
12-20-49 RH

Director, FBI

RE: DETCOM
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.
SECURITY MATTER - C

Dear Sir:

For your information the above captioned individual on whom a Security Index card has been prepared by this office has formerly been designated for priority attention in the event of an emergency necessitating apprehension of persons listed in the Security Index.

However, inasmuch as she is no longer being considered a Key Figure in this office, her name is being removed from this group at this time.

Very truly yours,

Edward Scheidt
EDWARD SCHEIDT,
SAC

DECLASSIFIED BY 1048/DKM/ST
ON 12/16/92

cc: 100-56529

JMF:MJT
100-90409

RECORDED - 114

DEC 15 1949
34

EX-126

UPTV/EZ

Alfred

51 DEC 27 1949

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

FD-122
(10-19-49)

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 12-13-49

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.
SECURITY MATTER - C
Bufile #100-293468

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/16/17 BY 1048 DISM/9

It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above captioned individual.

X The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (Specify change only)

NAME _____

ALIASES _____

RACE _____ SEX _____ NATIVE BORN _____ NATURALIZED _____ ALIEN _____

COMMUNIST _____ SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY _____ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE _____

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) _____

TAB FOR DETCOM _____ TAB FOR COMSAB _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ PLACE OF BIRTH _____

RESIDENCE ADDRESS _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address) _____

Jefferson School of Social Science (Teaching one night a week)

575 Sixth Avenue, New York, New York Wednesday night)

NATURE OF INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS (Specify from Strategic and Vital Industry List)

MAT:MJF
100-56529

RECORDED - 58

DEC 15 1949

51 FEB 2 1950

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: AUG 29 1950

FROM: SAC, New York

SUBJECT: GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.
SECURITY MATTER - C
Bufile 100-293468

*See card 4TD
9-7-50 RH*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/16/92 BY 1848/DKN/gtc

It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above captioned individual.

☒ The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (Specify change only)

NAME _____

ALIASES _____

RACE _____ SEX _____ NATIVE BORN _____ NATURALIZED _____ ALIEN _____

COMMUNIST _____ SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY _____ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE _____

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) _____

TAB FOR DETCOM _____ TAB FOR COMSAB _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ PLACE OF BIRTH _____

RESIDENCE ADDRESS _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address) _____

Consumers Union of U.S., Inc., Mailing and Subscription Department, 38 East 1st Street,
New York City (OR 4-1300)

NATURE OF INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS (Specify from Strategic and Vital Industry List)

VJB:DAA
100-56529
SEP 22 1950

RECORDED - 5

100-293468-16
AUG 30 1950

FIVE

A. E. Leonard

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-293468)

DATE: April 19, 1952

FROM : SAC, New York (100-56529)

SUBJECT: GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.
SECURITY MATTER - CALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/16/92 BY 1048/DKM/ST

Card U.T.D.

5-1-52 W

It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above-captioned individual.

X The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (Specify change only)

NAME _____

ALIASES _____

NATIVE BORN _____ NATURALIZED _____ ALIEN _____

COMMUNIST _____ SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY _____ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE _____

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) _____

TAB FOR DETCOM _____ TAB FOR COMSAB _____ RACE _____ SEX _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ PLACE OF BIRTH _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address) _____

Consumers Union of U.S. Inc. Mailing and Subscription Dept.

403 38 East 1st Street (4th Floor), NYC (know there as Mrs. Crosscup)

NATURE OF INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS (Specify from Vital Facility List) _____

RESIDENCE ADDRESS _____

EMR:mat

RECORDED 51

APR 23 1952

76 MAY 5 1952

EX-130

100-293468-17

FIVE

all

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-293468)

DATE: 6/4/53

FROM : SAC, New York (100-56529)

SUBJECT: GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was
SM - C
SECURITY INFORMANT PROGRAM
NEW YORK DIVISIONALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/16/97 BY 1048/DKM/gf

In connection with the Security Informant Program in the New York Division the following information is submitted.

Background MRS. RICHARD CROSSCUP.

G.I.R.-5

GWENDOLYN BENNETT CROSSCUP, a negress, claims to have been born 7/8/02 at Giddings, Texas. She is married to RICHARD CROSSCUP, white, born 7/24/05. She is reported to have attended Columbia Teachers College, New York City and to have graduated from Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York in 1924. She is also reported to have studied at Julien Academy, Paris, France in 1925 and 1926, and at Barnes Foundation, Marion, Pa. during 1927 and 1928.

Information received in October 1952 indicates she is employed in the subscription department of Consumers Union of U.S. Inc., 4th floor, 38 East First Avenue, New York City and presently resides at 2 West 120th Street, New York City.

Communist Activity

Subject was listed in the winter term 1944 Catalogue of the Jefferson School of Social Science, New York as an instructor. This catalogue also identified her as Director of the George Washington Carver School in New York. It is noted that both schools have been cited by the Attorney General as organizations coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

In 1941 during the course of an investigation conducted by the Works Progress Administration it was reported by a source of unknown reliability that the subject was a member of the Communist Party Publicity Committee for the New York District in 1936, 1937 and 1938. Another informant of unknown reliability reported that the subject was known to him as a Communist Party

APPROVED

Submit results in report

Date 6-3-53

RECORDED-97

INDEXED-97

1 -

JUN 17 1953
RECEIVED READING ROOM

MEF:BA

63 JUL 2 1953

Letter to Director.
NY 100-56529

member in 1941. She was also reported by several sources to have been a delegate to the National Negro Congress Convention in Philadelphia in 1937. The National Negro Congress has been cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835. It was also reported during the course of the WPA investigation in 1941 that she had campaigned in Pittsburgh in 1940 for JAMES FORD, CP candidate for Vice President of the United States in 1940.

She was during the period of 1943 to 1947 the director of the George Washington Carver School. It is noted that the school closed in late 1947 due to lack of funds. In 1947 she was reliably reported to be a member of the National Cultural Commission of the Communist Party.

During the course of an investigation conducted in 1941 by the WPA concerning the subject it was alleged by an individual of unknown reliability that RICHARD CROSSCUP, subject's husband was a member of the Communist Party in the year 1935. In this same investigation it was alleged that CROSSCUP was seen in the Communist Party offices on 13th Street, New York City in the year 1938.

In December 1946 a reliable informant advised that RICHARD CROSSCUP was teaching at the George Washington Carver School.

The 1946 issues of "Fraternal Outlook", monthly publication of the International Workers Order identified RICHARD CROSSCUP as National Director of Children's Activities for the IWO. He has been reported to have worked for the IWO until March 1951. His present occupation is unknown. The IWO has been cited by the Attorney General as an organization coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

In April 1946 a reliable informant advised that RICHARD CROSSCUP attended the Harlem Section Convention of the Communist Party held 3/1-3/46. The informant related that RICHARD CROSSCUP signed the register at the Convention and stated that all persons who signed the register were members of the Communist Party.

Letter to Director
NY 100-56529

Recently a reliable Confidential Informant of this office advised that up until the closing of the George Washington Carver School the subject had been its director. He reported that prior to the closing of this school the subject had engaged in a card game with persons outside the Communist Party and lost a considerable amount of money which belonged to the school. When an audit was made of the books of the school the shortage was discovered. The subject confessed to his actions, but was unable to make up the loss. She became quite upset about this and is reported to have suffered a nervous breakdown. At the time the shortage was discovered the Party leadership was quite alarmed and did not make any issue of it in order to prevent a break in morale in the Party. The informant stated that the leadership did not even bring this information to the attention of the Review Commission of the Party, for fear of embarrassment.

According to the informant the subject was inactive for a few years after the above mentioned incident, but according to present information he has received she is now teaching part time at the Jefferson School of Social Science in New York. The informant has advised that anyone instructing at the Jefferson School would also have to be active in the Communist Party.

Plan of Approach

The subject will be approached in a direct manner, at a secure place, away from her residence and employment. She will be interviewed by two agents.

Bureau authority is requested so that the subject can be interviewed in accordance with existing Bureau instructions relating to interviews under the Security Informant Program.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-293468)

DATE: 9/23/53

FROM : SAC, New York (100-56529)

SUBJECT: GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.
SM-C
SECURITY INFORMANT PROGRAM
NEW YORK DIVISION

Re NY letter to Director dated 6/4/53.

Attempts to interview the subject in accordance with existing instructions relative to interviews under the Security Index Program have been unsuccessful to date.

New York will continue to effect the above interview and as soon as results are obtained the Bureau will be notified.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/16/98 BY 1048/DKM/fgt

1-

MTE:RSM

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

RECEIVED
FBI
RECEIVED
SEP 29 15 00 PM '53

RECORDED-74

EX-125

SEP. 24 1953

53 OCT 1 1953

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SECURITY MATTER - C~~

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 11/5/53	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/6,8,12,14,27/53	REPORT MADE BY MATHIAS F. ERLEG
TITLE GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER-C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject interviewed 10/27/53, at which time she advised that she resides at 2 West 120th St, NYC, and is employed by Consumers Union of the U.S., Inc., at 38 East 1st Street, NYC. Subject refused to confirm or deny any CP membership. She claims to be loyal to the U.S. Govt. Subject was evasive to questions asked and terminated the interview by leaving interviewing agents.

AGENCY DR
REQ. REC'D 1-20-54
DATE FORW. 2-4
HOW FORW. TDR/m
BY

DECLASSIFIED BY 1048/DKM/gfb
ON 12/16/92

- C -

DETAILS: On October 27, 1953, subject was interviewed at the corner of Second Avenue and First Street, New York City, by SA EDWARD C. SNYDER and the reporting agent. Subject advised that she resides with her husband at 2 West 120th Street, New York City, and stated that she is employed by the Consumers Union of the United States, Inc., 38 East First Street, New York City.

The subject refused to confirm or deny Communist Party membership. She advised that any information she could give along these same lines concerning other individuals would be supposition and that she would not offer suppositions concerning anyone. Subject stated that she is loyal to the United States Government and has never been anything but loyal to the U. S. She refused to give direct answers to questions concerning loyalty to the United States in the event United States were involved in a war with Russia. The subject terminated the interview by departing from the interview-
ing agents

- C -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SECURITY MATTER - C~~

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <u>LJB</u> COPIES DESTROYED R 130 JAN 25 1961 COPY IN FILE Bureau (100-293468) (RM) TDR 3-New York (100-56529) 58 DEC 1 1953	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	ENCLOSURE 100-293468-20 RECORDED - 51 EX-124 NOV 10 1953 RECEIVED
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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-50255-2

NY 100-56529

ADMINISTRATIVE

REFERENCE: NY report of SA MELVIN A. THOMPSON, 11/2/49.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-293468)

DATE: 11/5/53

FROM : SAC, New York (100-56529)

SUBJECT: GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was; SM-C

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Classified by 1048/DKM/jlt
Declassify on: OADR
12/29/92ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/29/92 BY JAH/S/DEM/SALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISESECURITY INFORMANT PROGRAM
NEW YORK DIVISION

ReNY letters to Bureau, 6/4/53 and 9/23/53.

Subject was contacted under safe and secure conditions on the corner of Second Avenue and First Street, NYC, at approximately 9:10 am 10/27/53, by SA'S EDWARD C. SNYDER and MATHIAS F. ERIEG. After the interviewing agents identified themselves and advised the subject of her rights, she admitted her identity and during the ensuing conversation advised that she and her husband reside at 2 West 120th St, NYC, and that she is employed by Consumers Union of the U.S., Inc., 38 East First Street, NYC.

She was not cooperative in that she repeatedly stated that she had no information about herself or husband that the FBI does not already have. When discreetly advised that she was not in a position to know the extent of the information in the Bureau's and that it was desired that information be obtained directly from her concerning herself or any acquaintances in an effort to further substantiate or refute any information in the Bureau's possession. She merely repeated her original statement that she was sure that she had no information that is not already in the Bureau's possession.

When questioned as to Party membership, subject refused to affirm or deny any CP membership. She was evasive to all questions and replied to questions referring to CP membership that such questions were supposition.

It is to be noted that [redacted] in March, 1946 described the subject as a member of the Harlem Section of the CP (e)

When questioned concerning her loyalty to the U.S. Government, the subject replied that she is loyal to the U.S. and has never been anything but loyal to the U.S. When questioned concerning her loyalty to the U.S. in the event the U.S. became involved in a war with Russia, she evaded a direct answer to this question and stated that she is loyal to the U.S. and has never been anything but loyal to the U.S.

Encs: (5)

RM

MFE:AR

1. [redacted]

RECORDED - 51
EX-124

100-1293468-20

31 NOV 10 1953

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

50 NOV 24 1953

FOIA b 7 - D

Letter to Director, FBI
NY 100-56529 *WT*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Subject was asked for information concerning her husband's Party activities, to which she replied such questions were supposition and that she was not in a position to offer suppositions concerning anyone.

At this point the subject terminated the interview by stating that she would have no information that the Bureau does not already have and further that anything she could offer about others would be supposition and that she would not give suppositions concerning anyone. The subject thereafter departed and proceeded directly to her employment at 38 East First Street, NYC.

It is recommended that the subject not be recontacted due to her failure to cooperate in that she gave evasive answers and terminated the interview by walking away from the interviewing agents.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SAC, New York (100-56529)

November 25, 1953

RECORDED - 78 Director, FBI (100-293468) - 20

EX-112

GWENDOLYN BENNETT
SECURITY MATTER - C

Re report of SA Mathias F. Erieg dated
November 5, 1953, setting forth the results of an
interview with the subject.

Prior to closing this case you are requested
to submit a report incorporating all information
developed regarding subject's activities subsequent
to the report of SA Melvin A. Thompson dated November 2,
1949.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/16/92 BY 1048 DKM/gjt

MAILED 6
NOV 25 1953
COMM - FBI

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Gandy _____
Mohr _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Sizoo _____
Miss Gandy _____

NOV 25 1953
TDR:glg
FBI
RECEIVED NOV 25 1953
TICKLER

58 DEC 1 1953

NOV 25 1953
7 10 23
100

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

EXM

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE JAN 11 1954	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/9-11, 21, 28-30/53	REPORT MADE BY THOMAS J. CROKE, JR.
TITLE GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was. CONFIDENTIAL 33302			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C

4/10/54
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject resides at 2 West 120th Street, NYC, and is employed by Consumers Union of the US, Inc., 38 East First Street, NYC. Source of unknown reliability reported on 11/11/53 that the subject was a member of the CP prior to 1940. Records of the Board of Elections, NYC, reflect that the name RUTH GALE, 344 Lenox Avenue, NYC, appeared on a 1939 CPNP. Catalogue of JSSS reflects subject was an instructor at that school 1947, 1949 and 1950.

Classified by 1048/DKM/gtt
Declassify on: OADR
12/24/92
- C -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

DETAILS: Unless otherwise indicated all informants in this report are of known reliability.

AGENCY DR
REQ. REC'D 1-20-54
DATE FORW. 2-6
HOW FORW. TDR/aw
BY

I. BACKGROUND

A. Employment

On November 2, 1949 T-1 advised that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was teaching two classes every Wednesday night at the Jefferson School of Social Science. He stated that to his knowledge this was her only employment.

The Jefferson School of Social Science has been designated by the Attorney General as an organization pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: COPIES DESTROYED R130 JAN 25 1961	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <i>LVB</i> <i>WAA</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 100-293468-24 RECORDED - 15 INDEXED - 15 EX-115
COPIES OF THIS REPORT ⑤ - Bureau (100-293468) (RM) 3 - New York (100-56529) COPY IN FILE 55 JAN 31 1954		CONFIDENTIAL 28 JAN 1954

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953-22355-2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On March 16, 1950 T-2 furnished information that indicated G. CROSSCUP, 2 West 120th Street, New York City, ^{NY} was employed by the Consumers Union of the United States, Incorporated, 38 East First Street, New York City, for the year 1949.

On October 27, 1953 the subject was interviewed by SAs EDWARD C. SNYDER and MATHIAS F. ERIEG, at which time she advised that she was employed by the Consumers Union of the United States, Incorporated, at 38 East First Street, New York City. 33303

B. Residence

On May 7, 1951 T-3, of unknown reliability but in a position to be familiar with the subject, advised that GWENDOLYN BENNETT resided at 2 West 120th Street, New York City.

On October 27, 1953 the subject was interviewed by SAs SNYDER and ERIEG, at which time she advised that she resided with her husband at 2 West 120th Street, New York City.

II. CONNECTIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY

A. Evidence of Communist Party Membership

On November 11, 1953 T-4, of unknown reliability but who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that the subject was already a member of the Communist Party when the informant joined the Party about 1940. BENNETT, according to the informant, stated that the informant's joining the Party was the finest thing the informant had ever done.

On September 15, 1953 T-5, of unknown reliability but a person in a position to have knowledge of the subject's activities between the years 1937 and 1939, advised that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, a Negro artist, was a self-admitted Communist Party member who advised the informant that she had gone to a Communist Party school.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

B. Evidence of Communist Party Sympathy

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The records of the Board of Elections, New York City, reflect that the name RUTH GALE, 344 Lenox Avenue, New York City, appeared on a 1949 Communist Party Independent Nominating Petition for BENJAMIN J. DAVIS who was a candidate for City Councilman in Manhattan.

III. SUBJECT'S ACTIVITY IN CONNECTION
WITH COMMUNIST PARTY FRONT GROUPS

A. Subject's Activity in Connection with
the Jefferson School of Social Science

The catalogue of the Jefferson School of Social Science for the September - December 1947 term reflects that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, BS in Fine Arts, Columbia; Fellowship Academic Julian, Paris; Director, George Washington Carver School, appeared on a list of instructors and guest lecturers.

The "Daily Worker" issue of November 23, 1949, page 8, column 1, under the heading, "What's On," reflected that Picasso and Goya would be discussed by GWENDOLYN BENNETT at the Jefferson School, 575 Sixth Avenue, at 6:45 p.m.

The "Daily Worker" is an East Coast Communist daily newspaper.

On November 17, 1949 T-2 furnished a booklet issued by the BEN DAVIS Ball Committee entitled "A Tribute to Councilman BENJAMIN J. DAVIS." The name GWENDOLYN BENNETT appeared on a list of faculty under the caption, "Greetings from the Jefferson School."

The catalogue of the Jefferson School of Social Science for the winter 1950 term reflects that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was instructing a course entitled "How to Look at Pictures: Art Appreciation" on Wednesdays from 8:15 to 9:45 p.m.

The "Daily Worker" issue of February 8, 1950, page 5, column 1, under the heading, "What's On," reflects that GWENDOLYN BENNETT would discuss "How to Look at Pictures: Art Appreciation" at the Jefferson School.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

100-293468-21

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The "Daily Worker" issue of October 4, 1950, page 8, column 4, under the heading "Tonight Manhattan," reflects that the culture of Negro people would be discussed by GWENDOLYN BENNETT at the Jefferson School, 575 Sixth Avenue, at 8:30 p.m.

The "Daily Worker" issue of November 22, 1950, page 8, column 3, reflects an advertisement for the Jefferson School of Social Science that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was teaching a course entitled "The Culture of the Negro People" on Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m.

On February 15, 1951 T-6 furnished information that indicated the subject participated in a program sponsored by the Jefferson School of Social Science celebrating Negro History Week held on Sunday, February 11, 1951.

The "Daily Worker" issue of December 6, 1951, page 8, column 5, under the caption "Reception Sunday for CHARLES WHITE," reflects that one GWENDOLYN BENNETT was one of eight persons participating in a tribute to CHARLES WHITE, Negro artist, to be paid at a reception sponsored by the Jefferson School and "Masses and Mainstream." 14

The "Daily Worker" of September 29, 1950, page 11, column 5, reflects that the Jefferson School of Social Science announced that CHARLES WHITE, noted Negro people's artist, joined its art workshop faculty as a regular instructor beginning with the fall term to teach "painting and drawing" and life drawing on Monday and Friday evenings.

"Masses and Mainstream" has been cited as the successor to "New Masses," "a Communist magazine," by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities, House Report No. 1953, on the Congress of American Women, April 26, 1950 (originally released October 23, 1949), page 75.

The "Daily Worker" issue of February 8, 1952, page 8, column 1, reflects that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was scheduled to give a reading and an analysis of "working class poets of the Negro people" dedicated to the celebration of Negro History Week at the Jefferson School of Social Science on February 10 at 10:00 p.m.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

B. Subject's Activity in Connection
with the American Labor Party

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications," dated May 14, 1951, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., contains the following concerning the American Labor Party:

"1. 'For years, the Communists have put forth the greatest efforts to capture the entire American Labor Party throughout New York State. They succeeded in capturing the Manhattan and Brooklyn sections of the American Labor Party but outside of New York City they have been unable to win control.' (Special Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, March 29, 1944, page 78.)

"2. Among 'organizations that are victims of Communist domination.' (California Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, 1948, pages 40 and 41.)"

The records of the Bureau of Special Services and Investigation, New York City Police Department, as reviewed on December 11, 1953 reflect that the name GWENDOLYN BENNETT, 2 West 120th Street, New York City, appeared on an American Labor Party Nominating Petition for CLIFFORD T. McAVOY, candidate for President of the City Council in 1951.

C. Subject's Activity in Connection
with the George Washington Carver School

The George Washington Carver School has been designated by the Attorney General as an organization pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

On November 11, 1953 T-4 advised that the subject in the early 1940's became the head of the Carver School in Harlem at the time when the Communist Party was establishing similar schools all over America. The informant stated that it was the subject's duty to direct the school, build up a large student body that would also aid in raising funds for its existence, and to interest as many leading people in Harlem as possible to become members of the sponsoring committee.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On November 23, 1953 T-4 further advised that GWENDOLYN BENNETT remained the head of the Carver School until sometime in 1946, at which time she became desperately despondent, according to the informant, and was mixed up in great financial difficulties. The Party, according to the informant, relieved the subject of her job as director of the school because of these difficulties.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

D. Subject's Activity in Connection with the
National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions

The National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions has been cited as a Communist front by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities, Review of the Scientific and Cultural Conference for World Peace arranged by the National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions and held in New York City on March 25, 26 and 27, 1949, House Report No. 1954, April 26, 1950 (originally released April 19, 1949), page 2.

On January 17, 1953 T-7 advised that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was one of the panel speakers at a conference on equal rights for Negroes in the Arts, Sciences and Professions sponsored by the National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions and held on November 10, 1951.

E. Subject's Activities in Connection with
the American Women for Peace

The American Women for Peace has been cited as "an advance wave to establish a beachhead for other left-wing organizations scheduled to descend on Washington in observance of a Communist-declared "peace week" by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities, House Report No. 378, on the Communist "Peace" Offensive, April 25, 1951, original date April 1, 1951, page 75.

On August 9, 1951 T-8 furnished information that indicated the subject was a New York contact of the American Women for Peace.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

F. Subject's Activity in Connection with
the International Workers Order

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The International Workers Order has been designated by the Attorney General as an organization pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

On April 17, 1950 T-2 furnished information that indicated GWENDOLYN BENNETT, born 1901, was a member of International Workers Order Lodge 691 as of March 1950.

On April 6, 1951 T-2 advised that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, educator and artist, addressed a meeting of International Workers Order Lodge 500 on Friday, February 9, 1951. This meeting was in honor of Negro History Week and the subject spoke of three historic uprisings for freedom from slavery by the Negro people.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

The "Daily Worker" issue of February 11, 1953, page 7, column 3, under the heading "Information Please Forum on Negro History" reflects that GWENDOLYN BENNETT would participate in a round table of questions and answers on Negro life and history to be held Thursday, February 12, 1953 at 124 West 124th Street, New York City.

T-9, T-10, T-11, T-12, T-13 and T-14, all of whom have some knowledge of Communist Party activity in the New York City area, advised that they had no information pertaining to the subject.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- C -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 7 -

NY 100-56529

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INFORMANTS

Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to Whom Furnished	File No. Where Located
T-1 [redacted]	Employment, JSSS, 11/49	11/2/49	MELVIN A. THOMPSON	100-56529-86
T-2 [redacted]	Withholding statement for G. CROSSCUP, 2 West 120th St, NYC, for 1949	3/16/50	HERBERT P. LARSON	100-56529-90
	Greetings to BENJAMIN DAVIS. 1949	11/17/49	HERBERT P. LARSON	100-23825-1a113
	General office membership list, IWO Lodge 691, dated 3/50	4/17/50	EVERETT K. DEANE	100-2936-1a645
	The "Voice of 500," a publication of Lodge 500, IWO, reflecting BENNETT's address- ing Lodge 500 on 2/9/51	4/6/51	JOHN W. DOOLEY	100-2936-1a271
T-3 Pretext phone call made to home of subject on 5/7/51	Residence	5/7/51	EDWARD R. TULLY	100-56529-98
T-4 [redacted]	GP membership about 1940	11/12/53	BILLY F. ACUFF	[redacted]
	Head of Carver School 1940's	11/12/53 11/25/53	BILLY F. ACUFF	[redacted]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (Cont'd)

Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to Whom Furnished	File No. Where Located
T-5 FLORENCE ANNA ENGLANDER, 144-70 Village Road, Parkway Village, Jamaica, LI	Subject self-admitted CP member and attended CP school sometime between 1937-39	9/15/53	HERBERT P. LARSON and FRANK J. NOWLAN (oral)	100-56529-112
T-6 [REDACTED]	Mimeographed copy of a leaflet issued by JSSS entitled "Negro History Week"	2/15/51	EDWARD W. BUCKLEY	100-80640-1064
T-7 [REDACTED]	Summary of conference on equal rights for Negroes in the arts, sciences and professions 11/10/51	1/17/52	JAMES E. GIBLER	100-93553-733
T-8 [REDACTED]	List of NY contacts copied by informant from files of AWP at its office, 1186 Broadway, on 8/7/51	8/9/51	JOSEPH P. McCANN	100-98781-379
T-9 [REDACTED]	Negative	12/11/53	ALEXANDER C. BURLINSON (oral)	Instant report
T-10 [REDACTED]	Negative	12/11/53	ALEXANDER C. BURLINSON (oral)	Instant report

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (Cont'd)

Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to Whom Furnished	File No. Where Located
T-11 [redacted]	Negative	12/9/53	JOHN W. DOOLEY (oral)	Instant report
T-12 [redacted]	Negative	12/9/53	JOHN W. DOOLEY (oral)	Instant report
T-13 [redacted]	Negative	12/9/53	RICHARD H. BLASSER	Instant report
T-14 [redacted]	Negative	12/21/53	RICHARD H. BLASSER	Instant report

REFERENCES: Report of SA MATHIAS F. ERIEF, New York, 11/5/53
Bureau letter dated 11/25/53

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-293468)

DATE: 4/26/55

FROM : SAC, New York (100-56529)

Card U.T.D.

1955

SUBJECT: GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.
SM-CALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/6/92 BY 1048/DKN/skIt is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the
above-captioned individual.X The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be
changed as follows: (Specify change only)

NAME _____

ALIASES _____

NATIVE BORN _____ NATURALIZED _____ ALIEN _____

COMMUNIST _____ SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY _____ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE _____

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) _____

TAB FOR DETCOM _____ TAB FOR COMSAB _____ RACE _____ SEX _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ PLACE OF BIRTH _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address)
Consumers Union of U.S., Inc.

256 Washington Street, New York, N.Y.

KEY FACILITY DATA:

GEOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE NUMBER _____ RESPONSIBILITY _____

INTERESTED AGENCIES _____

RESIDENCE ADDRESS _____

RM

RGS:MTR

NOT RECORDED

8 APR 27 1955

69 MAY 10 1955

INT SEC

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-293468)

FROM : SAC, New York (100-56529)

SUBJECT: GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was
SM-C

DATE: 6/3/55

Reference

SAC Letter 55-30, April 12, 1955.

Succinct Resume of Case

[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised prior to 8/22/44 that he had seen the subject in Party headquarters from time to time and that she was definitely a member of the CP. [redacted] advised further that subject in 1939 attended a Communist School near Kingston, NY, operated by an official of the State Committee of the CP in 1943. This school was a gathering place for intellectuals of the CP, according to [redacted] (Reliable) (Admissable) Serial-21 - p.2.

[redacted] advised prior to 8/22/44 that subject's activities at that time consisted solely in directing the affairs of the George Washington Carver School of which subject is director. (cited by HCUA) (admissable)

A review of the 1944 catalogue of the Jefferson School of Social Science indicates that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was an instructor in "Art, History and Appreciation". (cited by AG) (admissable)

[redacted] who furnished reliable information in the past, advised on 2/21/47 that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was a member of the National Cultural Commission of the CP. (Serial 84, p.2) (inadmissable)

In October, 1948, [redacted]

[redacted] advised that he had heard from reliable sources that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, former director of the George Washington Carver School was suffering from a nervous breakdown, was somewhat mentally unbalanced; and that she was no longer connected with any activities of the CP. (inadmissable)

RM

WM:MJR

CANCELLED

RECORDED-32

JUN 30 1955


EX-126

JUN 8 1955

64 JUL 7 1955

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

Letter to Director
NY 100-56529

 who has reported reliable information in the past, advised on October 14, 1947 that subject was "through with the Communist Party" ~~and was only interested in her own~~ and her duties as a housewife. (admissible)

The Jefferson School of Social Science for the winter term 1950, reflects that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was instructing a course entitled "How to Look at Pictures: Art Appreciation" on Wednesdays from 8:15 to 9:45.

The "Daily Worker" an East Coast Communist newspaper in November 22, 1950, December 6, 1951, February 8, 1952 issues reflected the subject was still active in the Jefferson School of Social Science. (admissible)

Recommendation

I agree
JER

Delete from Security Index inasmuch as subject's activities do not come within the criteria for retention on SI as set forth in referenced SAC letter 55-30, 4/12/55.

Detcom Tabling

1. Subject not tabbed Detcom.
2. Not applicable.
3. Subject recommended for deletion from SI.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 1/15/59		Investigative Period 11/14/58 - 1/8/59
Report made by WILLIAM J. FORTUNE		Typed By: hjb
CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C (Communist Index)		
TITLE OF CASE GWENDOLYN BENNETT, aka. #340918 Classified by 1048/DKM/96 Declassify on: OADR 12/29/92		

XXXXXX

REFERENCE

New York letter to the Director,
dated 6/3/55.

- C -

ADMINISTRATIVE

Subject is not being carried on the SI of the NYO and no recommendation is being made for the inclusion of her name on the SI inasmuch as her activities do not come within the present criteria. Subject is being retained on the CI.

A suitable photograph is available.

Subject is not being considered for an interview at this time because when interviewed in October of 1953, she reportedly stated that she was sure that she had no information that is not

Approved Copies made:	Special Agent In Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
4 - Bureau (100-293468)(RM) 3 - New York (100-56529) JAN 53 8 10 AM '22 SUBVERSIVE CONTROL REC.D - EBT		100-293468-23 25 JAN 19 1959	REC-92 EX-135

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SUBV. CONTROL

67 JAN 28 1959

NY 100-56529

already in the possession of the FBI. It is also noted that approximately 11 years ago subject allegedly suffered a nervous breakdown.

This report has been classified "Confidential" because it contains information furnished by a highly placed confidential source, the disclosure of which would hamper future security investigations, thereby adversely affecting national security.

INFORMANTS

Identity of Source

File Number
Where Located

NW/T-1.

100-2936-1A 1492 p. 1810

Careful consideration has been given to the source concealed and a T symbol has been utilized in the report only in that instance where the identity of the source must be concealed.

Informants mentioned as having been contacted negatively are identified as follows:

Informant

Date Contacted

Agent Contacting

11/19/58

PAUL R. JOENSEN

12/10/58

PAUL R. JOENSEN

12/15/58

JOHN P. DI MARCHI

12/15/58

JOHN P. DI MARCHI

11/19/58

DAVID RYAN

11/21/58

DAVID RYAN

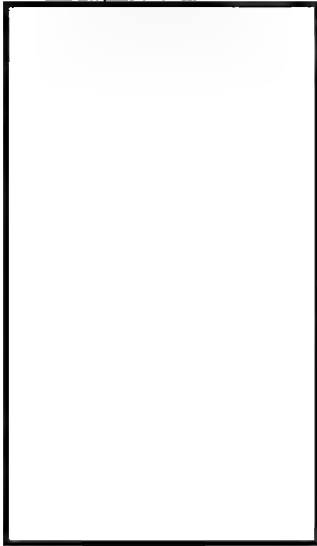
COVER PAGE

-A-

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Informant



Date Contacted

Agent Contacting

11/19/58

DONALD W. WHITE

11/25/58

JOHN A. HAAG

11/25/58

JOHN A. HAAG

11/20/58

JAMES P. HALLERON

11/21/58

JAMES P. HALLERON

11/24/58

JAMES P. HALLERON

11/21/58

LEROY W. SHEETS

11/21/58

LEROY W. SHEETS

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COVER PAGE

-B-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA WILLIAM J. FORTUNE
Date: January 15, 1959

Office: New York

File Number: New York 100-56529
Bureau 100-293468

Title: GWENDOLYN BENNETT

Character: SECURITY MATTER - C

Synopsis: Subject resides 2 West 120th Street, NYC, and is employed by Consumers Union of U.S., Inc., 256 Washington, Mt. Vernon, NY. Subject reportedly was a member of the IWO as of late 1953.

- C -

#340918
DECLASSIFIED BY 1048/DKM/glt
ON 12/16/92~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of any kind. It is the property of the FBI, and is a loan to your agency; it and/or its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

16-74025-1 GPO

NY 100-56529

DETAILS:

BACKGROUND

Residence and Employment

On November 21, 1958, a Mr. K KUHN, Personnel Department, Consumers Union of United States, Incorporated, 256 Washington, Mt. Vernon, New York, advised SA WILLIAM J. FORTUNE that the subject as GWENDOLYN BENNETT CROSSCUP continues to be employed by the above, and resides at 2 West 120th Street, New York City.

AFFILIATION WITH THE
COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

Communist Party Fronts

On June 22, 1954, NY T-1 furnished information which reflected that subject was a member of the International Workers Order as of late 1953.

The International Workers Order has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

MISCELLANEOUS

Informants who are familiar with certain phases of Communist Party activity in the New York City area, were contacted relative to the subject in November and December, 1958, and were unable to furnish any information.

The Communist Party has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

DESCRIPTION

The following description of the subject was obtained by SA WILLIAM J. FORTUNE on November 21, 1958:

Age	Approximately 50
Race	Negro
Complexion	Medium
Height	5'2"
Weight	180 pounds
Hair	Black

- C -

- 3 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation

New York, New York

100-56529

January 15, 1959

Re: Gwendolyn Bennett
Security Matter - C

With regard to the report of Special Agent William J. Fortune dated and captioned as above, the informants mentioned therein all have furnished reliable information in the past.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of any kind. It is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is a loan to your agency; it and/or its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

4*

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-293468) DATE: OCT 6 1955
FROM : SAC, New York (100-56529)
SUBJECT: GWENDOLYN BENNETT
SECURITY MATTER - C

Re Bureau letter to NY, 5/4/55.

The NYO by letter dated 4/20/55 discontinued
confidential source [redacted]

[redacted] presently resides at
[redacted] has furnished
reliable information in the past and has expressed a
willingness to testify as a Government witness in connection
with any of the information she may have furnished.

RM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/16/92 BY 1648 DKM/gtt

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

FTT:PEH

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

71 OCT 24 1955

100-293468-✓
NOT RECORDED
162 OCT 11 1955

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 134-1574-7